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HONG KONG, FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1949.

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## PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN PEIPING TONIGHT

### Nanking Officials Fly To Northern Capital

Nanking, March 31.

The first group of 16 officials of the Nationalist peace delegation has arrived in Peiping to begin negotiations tomorrow night with the Chinese Communists. They left Nanking by air this morning.

Tomorrow the six official delegates will fly to Peiping and will hold their first meeting with the Communists on the same night. Preliminary discussions of procedure are expected to occupy the opening meeting.

The Nationalist Cabinet of General Ho Yin-chin today approved the appointment of four advisers to the delegation while some of the advisers were travelling by air on their way to Communist-held Peiping.

The official delegates met Kuomintang policy-makers from the Central Executive Committee and the Central Political Council this afternoon to complete their round of final consultations with all factions before leaving for Peiping.

Acting President Li Tsung-jen and General Chiang Chun, who flew in hurriedly from Chungking, attended the meeting.

The official delegates are: Nationalists: General Chang Chih-chung (the leader), Dr. Shao Li-te, Dr. Huang Shao-hsiung, Professor Lei Cheng, Dr. Chang Shih-chao and General Liu Fel.

Communists: General Chou En-lai (the leader), General Lin Biao, General Yen Chien-jing, Mr. Lin Pi-chi and Mr. Li Wei-han.

Their advisers: Nationalists: Mr. Liu Ching-hua, Mr. Li Ching-jung, Mr. Chu Wu and Mr. Ching Shan. Communists: None announced.

#### Restrained Hopes

The consensus in the Nationalist capital today about the prospects of the negotiations is a feeling of restrained hopefulness. It was typified in a remark by the Nationalist delegation's leader, General Chang Chih-chung, who said: "Better peace talks than no talks at all."

But peace talks and achieving peace, all the leaders emphasize, are two different things. They agree that the principal snag in the forthcoming discussions will be the future of the Kuomintang armies. According to the Communists' eight peace terms they must be reorganized and nationalized.

Most Nationalists, however, believe that should the peace delegates agree fully to the Communist conception of the war, they would be signing the death warrant of the Kuomintang which as one put it today, may be down but not yet out for the count. He said that it has still a few lively kicks left in it and is by no means likely to cut its own throat.

#### No Surrender

The fact that retired Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has given his unofficial blessing to the peace delegation, some observers believe, indicates that the new Ho Yin-chin Government is not going to sign any surrender agreement. Apart from insisting that the negotiations should be on the

#### The Weather

At 600 GMT (2 p.m. H.K.T.) a moderate anti-cyclone over N. China, with a trough of low pressure from the sea of Japan to the Ryukyu is moving SE. Today's Forecast: Moderate E. or SE winds, fair to clear.  
Yesterday's Weather:  
Maximum: 78.0 deg. F.  
Minimum: 61.0 deg. F.  
Sunshine: 7 1/2 hours.  
Rainfall: Nil.  
Total since Jan. 1: 12.5 mm. (0.5 in.)  
Average of 1948: 11.5 mm. (0.45 in.)  
1947: 10.7 mm. (0.42 in.)  
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## A Spring Jumper



Nursing Order Corporal D. I. Purvis, of Beal, Berwick-on-Tweed, struggled to control her parachute after dropping in a demonstration by a Royal Air Force Parachute Medical Team at Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire. Corporal Purvis, of the Women's Royal Air Force, and her team-fellows are trained to drop with medical supplies into battle areas to aid casualties who cannot be reached quickly by land. (AP Photo).

## General Attack In Territories At Dawn Today

A combined naval and land attack on the enemy stronghold at Ping Shan is expected to be launched at dawn today in Exercise Lancer to wipe out the bandit force.

The Cold's defence forces were expected to recapture the Ping Shan Police station last night. During yesterday, the enemy captured the Army's Tactical Field Headquarters which was accommodated in a truck.

The Cold's Commander, however, escaped without injury. Last night two Army forces were engaged on the enemy stronghold at Ping Shan. The force, spearheaded by the 2/10 Gurkha Rifles, was advancing along the Ping Shan road. The Gurkha Rifles were moving from the Kam Tin area in the direction of Au Tau.

Heavy rain, however, forced the Army to suspend the attack. The Gurkha Rifles were expected to resume the attack at dawn today.

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## 50 Killed In Japan Disaster

Tokyo, March 31.  
Fifty Japanese are dead and more than 100 injured when a mine which drifted to the coast of Nade, a town in the Niigata Prefecture, exploded last evening.

The inhabitants of the town had come to the seashore to see the floating mine when it hit a rock and exploded.

After the blast the bodies of more than 30 dead found, and more than 10 others missing. Between 100 and 200 were injured.

Thirty houses located near the scene of the disaster were blown to bits by the blast.

Trains last night were carrying injured to the neighbouring towns of Takada and Notsun.

Other rescue parties were busy with aid for the people buried under the debris of houses by the blast.

Of the injured more than 15 died later in hospitals at Takada, bringing the total known dead to more than 50.

Nade town had a population of 2,613 by 1947 census. It is a fishing village of 530 houses.

## BRITISH SHIP FIRED ON IN NORTH CHINA

(By Our Harbour Reporters)

Shore machine-gun fire prevented the British steamer Hanyang from reaching Tanku, although the master had a permit from the Taku Bar authorities to discharge her cargo at the Red-occupied port.

"I have made my report to the local office and I will see the Admiralty today regarding the incident," Mr. V. For, veteran skipper of the Butterfield and Swire vessel, stated on his arrival here yesterday, bringing the first group of foreigners to leave Tientsin.

A senior official of the company reported that due to a slight misunderstanding the Hanyang was fired on by Communist soldiers as the vessel was proceeding towards the port with a pilot. The Taku Bar authorities gave permission for the cargo to be discharged at Tanku, but apparently the soldiers were not informed beforehand.

The Hanyang returned to Taku Bar, where she unloaded 600 tons of local cargo and took on 12 Europeans and 17 Chinese passengers for Hong Kong.

No cargo was loaded from the Red port. No damage was sustained and no one was injured during the firing.

Among the passengers who arrived on the Hanyang were Mr. D. Wilder, of the Economic Co-operation Administration, Mr. J. Lacey of Jardine, Matheson, Mr. R. S. G. Thompson of the London Mission, Mrs. L. Obermeyer of the Kailan Mining Administration and her daughter, Minnie, Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Adams, Mr. R. M. Edelman, Mr. and Mrs. D. Williams and Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Thomson.

If first impressions could serve as a criterion, then Tientsin, in the opinion of most of the arrivals, is a good example to indicate the attitude of the Chinese Reds towards foreigners.

Red Policy.

"There seems to be an apparent attempt to win the hearts of the foreign community, and Red officials often went out of their way to be polite and civil," remarked the arrivals.

Recalling his experience, Mr. R. S. G. Thompson, who taught in the Tientsin Anglo-Chinese College, affiliated with the London Mission, said the Police Inspector in charge of Customs inspection at Tientsin requested criticism and suggestions from them regarding the procedure and apologized for any inconvenience caused.

Foreign properties and communities were given adequate protection; posters were put up during the first few weeks of the Red occupation of Tientsin advising that they come under the protection of the Tientsin Municipal Administration.

"An instance when the Reds really demonstrated their eagerness to keep vigilance over foreign property was when a friend of ours went to visit another friend, the British missionary, said, the Red porter only permitted the visitor to enter when the occupant of the house told him that he was a friend and not a stranger."

Trade Prospects.

Curfews, imposed by the Nationalists, were lifted, and there are indications that the ban on dancing and night clubs might even be lifted shortly, the declared.

The Red occupation of Tientsin was a remarkable incident, they asserted. There was, hardly any

large-scale resistance in the city itself. A Red soldier would fire some shots into a group of Nationalist soldiers on guard at a certain place and then approach them at gun point. The Nationalists would lay down their arms, without resistance. This happened in many places.

The Communists used American arms and were better clothed compared to their Nationalist counterparts.

Except for checking up on foreigners, they did not interfere with them.

A businessman declared that although Tientsin is undergoing the inevitable occupational pangs business is gradually picking up, and the Reds have indicated their intention of renewing foreign trade as early as possible, and are working on plans to provide all facilities possible.

"Of course, during the first few weeks of the occupation, banks and offices were closed, which led to difficulties. But that is natural," he remarked.

The resumption of business activity, however, things began to operate more or less under normal conditions.

Hasty Changed.

Many foreign businessmen have been open about things which really get moving once the Reds have cleared the resultant obstacles of war, he concluded.

From the housewife's point of view, Mrs. Obermeyer, thinks there is hardly any change in Tientsin. Food is available to the ordinary person, and is not very difficult to get, said the widow of a Kailan Mining Administration official who is flying to her home town in Belgium with her daughter, Minnie, next week.

Mrs. Obermeyer had been in China for 13 years. She went to Tientsin in December, last year, with her daughter.

"Things were going on as usual. Transportation was available in many parts. The movies even showing foreign pictures," she said.

Restaurants were flourishing as usual and were well patronized by Chinese and foreign alike.

During her years in China in which she experienced several conflicts, she remarked that she had never seen such a peaceful occupation of a captured city like the Red grip.

## BUDGET ESTIMATES APPROVED

Hong Kong's Budget Estimates for 1949/50 were passed by Legislative Council yesterday, when the official replies to the debate were delivered.

Chief point of interest was the announcement that the Star Ferry is to be granted a franchise for a limited number of years to operate the ferry route.

The Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, speaking on the proposed Municipal Council, said there would be no steam-rolling of plans for constitutional reform and that ample time would be given for consideration and debate of proposals on the subject.

Yesterday's Council proceedings are on Page 2.

## SYRIA BACK TO NORMAL

Damascus, March 31.

Syria, under firm army control after the bloodless coup yesterday, reopened its frontiers and communications today and is preparing to proceed with armistice talks with Israel.

The army leaders who overthrew and killed Premier Khaled el Azam and the Cabinet lifted the strict curfew in Damascus. Shops reopened and life in the capital was soon back to normal.

Travellers resumed across Syria's borders with the Lebanon and Transjordan. Telephone communication, cut when the coup was launched, were also resumed.

Hundreds of students marched through the streets of Damascus waving banners and cheering the "liberation" of their country.

Deposed President Shukri al-Kuwatly along with Premier el Azam and Government Ministers is held being in Damascus.

Refugee reports from other Middle Eastern capitals said Syria's delegates to the United Nations, Faris al Khoury and Emir Adel Arslan, have tried vainly to persuade al-Kuwatly to resign. (REUTERS)

DRIVER STABBED

A public motor car driver was stabbed in the head by one of two passengers he had picked up in Wanchai last night. The incident occurred in Robinson Road.

The driver, whose condition is serious, is in Queen Mary Hospital.



MEN-ABOUT-TOWN  
take their choice from

**BURNETT'S**

LONDON WHITE SATIN

DRY GIN GIN

in the original square bottle

Smooth as satin in the round ridged bottle

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## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

20 Words \$2 for 1 insertion  
\$1 for every additional insertion  
10 cents every additional word per insertion  
(Alternate insertions 10% Extra)

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, PERSONAL \$5 per insertion of 25 words. 25 cents every additional word per insertion.

Classified Advertisements, accepted up to 8 p.m. for publication in the following day's paper.

Replies for the following Box Nos. are awaiting collection.

No. 776.

Replies will be forwarded to the Advertiser if requested on the original form which should bear their name and address.

A suitable announcement will be inserted Free of Charge if Advertiser's requirements are satisfactorily answered.

## WANTED KNOWN

LADIES we have at your service all specialized operations for Helene Currier Cool Waves, manicures, oil perma hairdressing, manicure—ROSE MARIE Beauty Parlour—Phone 50384—43, Hankow Rd., Kowloon.

RUGS Peking Art Rug Co., Wholesale & Retail, Room 8-9 Lucky Apartment, Corner of Hankow & Peking Road, Kowloon.

DURABLE SERVICE for floor coverings and upholstery. Cleaned by foam in your own home by skilled operators. Tel. 24408. Agents: George Lin & Co., 202, Bank of East Asia Building.

CARPETS & RUGS—Genuine Peking and Tibetan, lovely designs and colourings, various sizes. Come and inspect at The China Rug Co., Kowloon Building, 4th Floor (Opposite Hong Kong Hotel) Queen's Road, Central.

## PREMISES WANTED

MARRIED COUPLE requires one or two rooms private bath, preferably Kowloon. Up to 500 HK monthly. Reply Box 798 "China Mail."

## CLASSIFIED

## ADVERTISEMENTS

MAY BE BOOKED AT THE WINDOW BOOK STORE, 25 NATHAN ROAD, TEL. 59327

## TUITION GIVEN

SHANGHAI FASHION SCHOOL—Vacancies available in Cutting & Sewing Classes. Apply to 303 Victory House, Wyndham Street on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

## DANCING LESSONS

BALLROOM DANCING—"Made Easy"—Learn QUICKLY and surprise your friends! Make your DANCING enjoyable by learning RHUMBA, SAMBA, TANGO and JITTERBUG (Jive). Enquiries (1-3 P.M.)—TONY HUDSON, 512 China Building.

## PROPERTY FOR SALE

ATTRACTIVE HOUSE, No. 6 Dorset Crescent, Kowloon Tong, 2 rooms, 2 bathrooms, garage, nice garden, ready occupation. Apply G.P.O. No. 1359.

## FOR SALE

JAMARA May 503 Peninsula Hotel, large assortment SUMMER STOCK all sizes, reasonable prices. Orders taken for Wedding and Evening Gowns, etc. European workmanship only.

SPECIAL CLEARANCE SALE: Westinghouse Radios, tube models and Radio-phonograph combinations. All going below cost. One week only. Davis, Boag & Co. Ltd., Showroom, Alexandra Building.

CONSOLIDATED—Pneumatic Diesel driven portable compressor, 210 cubic feet capacity, Ruston Diesel Engine, Air-riding hoist. Detailed specification and price apply Jacks, 307 Prince's Building, Tel. 22392.

HONG KONG FILM AND THEATRE NEWS at 50 cents per copy. Obtainable at Leading Book Stores, Newspaper Sellers and "China Mail" Office.

PILOT RADIOS: Same reliable pre-war quality now obtainable at popular prices, made possible by increased demand and large sales. World Reception Models from \$190 each. Obtainable at all the better dealers or direct from: Colonial Agents, Sookoohy Bldg., 14 Queen's Rd., Phone 25510.

CHINA MAIL PICTORIAL, at 50 cents per copy. Obtainable at all leading Book Stores and "China Mail" Office.

CHINA MAIL POSTCARD—\$1.50 per 50 cents each. Obtainable at all leading Book Stores and "China Mail" Office.

## FOR SALE

HONG KONG & DIRECTORY (1949 edition) containing Hong Kong Govt. Offices, Hospitals, Schools, Churches, Institutes, Consulates, Services, Clubs, Agencies, Who's Who, Residences. It's the most up-to-date and most complete of all business directories in the Colony. NOW ON SALE at all leading book shops and "China Mail" office.

SCRIBBLING PAD—100 pages at 50 cents each. On sale at "China Mail" office, Windsor House, Tel. 52512.

## THE CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

Notice to Shareholders

The Sixty-fourth Ordinary Yearly Meeting of Shareholders will be held at the Offices of the Undersigned on Wednesday, the 20th April, 1949 at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the report of the General Agents together with a Statement of Accounts for the year ended the 31st December, 1948.

The Share Register and Transfer Books will be closed from the 6th April to the 20th April, 1949, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.

General Agents, THE CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

Hong Kong, March 30, 1949.

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The Medical Department would be grateful for offers of assistance from qualified Occupational Therapists who would be willing to give their services on a voluntary basis to selected patients in the Government Hospitals. The work would be in connection with the treatment of orthopaedic, mental and tuberculous patients and could be undertaken in the volunteers' own time.

DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICE.

March 30, 1949.

## LAMMERT BROS.

Auctioneers, Surveyors and Appraisers, Pedder Building, Telephone No. 20224.

## PUBLIC AUCTION

The Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction on

FRIDAY, April 1, 1949 commencing at 2.30 p.m.

at their Sales Rooms, No. 35, Hankow Road, Kowloon.

VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE comprising:—

Silent-Knight Kerosene Refrigerator, Frigidaire, Underwood Typewriter, 18" Singer Hand Sewing Machine, Radio Sets, Table Fans, Babies' Cots, Carpets, Rugs, 3 Piece Suites, Dining Room & Bed Room Furniture, Cutlery, Crockery, Glass Ware, Table Ornaments, Camphorwood Chests and Mirrors, Etc., Etc.

Also

One Standard 8 Motor Car—Licence No. 750—can be seen at Statue Square, Southern End, Hong Kong.

On View from Thursday, March 31, 1949.

Terms: As Customary.

LAMMERT BROS., Auctioneers.

## NOTICE

1. (a) The following surplus RASC supplies are offered for sale. Tenders are invited for the purchase of the whole or part lots of each commodity:—

(i) Sweetened Condensed Milk—26,720 lbs. (i.e. 636 cases of 48 tins of 14 ozs. each) (fit for confectionery manufacture only).

(ii) Flour Sweepings—2,100 lbs. (i.e. 21 sacks of 100 lbs. each) (fit for animal food).

(iii) Used Sacks—3450 Nos.

(iv) Unserviceable Barrels 45 IG—37 Nos. Unserviceable Barrels 34 IG—20 Nos.

Unserviceable Drums 5 IG—58 Nos.

Unserviceable Drums 4 IG—163 Nos.

Unserviceable Jericans 4 1/2 IG—368 Nos.

Serviceable Barrels 45 IG—102 Nos.

Serviceable Barrels 34 IG—705 Nos.

Serviceable Drums 5 IG—534 Nos.

Serviceable Drums 4 IG—1200 Nos.

Serviceable Kegs—280 Nos.

(v) Cigarettes Golden Cloud (Duty Paid)—74,000 Nos. (tins of 50 each).

(vi) Cigarettes Sunrises (Duty Paid)—121,200 Nos. (tins of 50 each).

(vii) Cigarettes Indian Troops (Not Duty Paid)—42,200 Nos. (all in packet of 40).

(viii) Oil Lubricating M 800—540 IG (i.e. 12 x 45 IG Barrels)

(b) The above may be inspected at the 53 Supply Depot RASC, FMA SHAMSHUPO, between the hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Applications to view will be received at, and necessary passes obtained from HQ RASC, Whitefield Barracks, KOWLOON, daily between the hours of 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. up to 9 Apr. 49.

2. Quotations will be received for part or whole of the above up to 11 a.m. Monday, 11 Apr. 49, and must be deposited at HQ RASC, Whitefield Barracks, KOWLOON, in sealed covers, marked "TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF RASC SUPPLIES". Each tender is to be accompanied by Ernest—Money amounted to HK\$100. Ernest Money will be refunded after the above tenders have been accepted.

3. The Secretary of State for War does not bind himself to accept the highest or any tender.

E. G. HAZELTON,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Commander, Royal Army Service Corps.

HQ Land Forces, HONG KONG.

## Service Auction Rooms

A. R. E. & Sons, Auctioneers, Auctioneers, Surveyors, etc. Basement, French Bank Bldg. Telephone 31967.

## NOTICE

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE BEEN APPOINTED SOLE AGENTS FOR CRESSONITE INDUSTRIES LTD., SINGAPORE.

DREYER & CO., LTD.

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YORK BUILDING HONG KONG

## HONG KONG TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

I. A meeting of the English Section of the Association will be held at 5.15 p.m. on Friday, April 1, at the Northcote Training College.

## AGENDA

1. Appointment of a Chairman and Committee of Twenty.

2. Appointment of a Convener and two Committee Members in each of the following sub-sections:—English, History, Geography, Science, Mathematics, Art, Music.

3. Any other business.

Prior to the meeting, at 4.15 p.m., there will be a display of Text-Books and other teaching apparatus. Tea will be served at a cost of \$2 a head.

II. An illustrated lecture on "The Teaching of Music in Junior Schools," will be given by Miss D. H. Simpson, L.R.A.M., at 5.15 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, at St. John's Cathedral Hall.

M. HEARSON, Joint Hon. Secretary.

## THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS CO., (1933) LTD.

## MONTHLY TICKETS &amp; SCHOOL CHILDREN'S TICKETS

Monthly Tickets and School Children's Tickets for the month of April, 1949, issued at \$18.00 and \$6.00 per ticket respectively and restricted to Route Nos. 1 to 13 (inclusive) only can be obtained as follows:—

On March 29, 30 and 31 and April 1, 2 and 3 between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. at Tsim Sha Tsui Bus Terminal Office, and thereafter at the Company's Office, 153, Castle Peak Road, Kowloon, during business hours only.

THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS CO., (1933), LTD.

March 28, 1949.

## NOTICE

## CHINA ENTERTAINMENT AND LAND INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FIFTEENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Registered Offices of the Company, King's Theatre Building, 5th floor on Thursday, the 14th day of April, 1949 at 12 o'clock noon to receive the Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1948, to elect Directors and Auditors and to transact such other business as may be properly transacted at an Ordinary General Meeting of the Company.

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the register and transfer books of the Company will be closed from 2nd to 14th day of April, 1949, both days inclusive.

GEORGE Y. K. SUN, Secretary.

Hong Kong, March 28, 1949.

## SHANGHAI LIGHT HORSE

## ANNUAL DINNER

Former members of the Shanghai Light Horse are reminded that the Annual Dinner is to be held at the Sports Club, King's Building at 8.00 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday) night. As it has not been possible to get in touch with all ex-members, will those who have not already sent in their names and who intend to be present kindly get in touch with Mr. J. K. R. Macgregor by telephoning him at 32380.

## NOTICE

## FREE CHOLERA INOCULATION

Employers of labour are notified that requests for inoculation against cholera can be made to the Health Officer (Anti-Epidemic), Room 18, G.P.O. Building, second floor, telephone No. 39018.

The number of persons to be inoculated and the name of the person in charge of the arrangements should be given in addition to the telephone number of the firm.

Firms employing less than 50 employees are requested to send their employees for inoculation to the nearest Inoculation Centre.

These Centres are:—

## HONG KONG.

## Port Health Inoculation Clinics

\*Port Health Inoculation Clinic, Fire Brigade Building 39289  
" " " Marine Building 25820

## Chinese Public Dispensaries

Aberdeen Chinese Public Dispensary 34444  
Western Chinese Public Dispensary 23293  
Eastern Chinese Public Dispensary 26905  
Central Chinese Public Dispensary 23485  
Shaokwan Chinese Public Dispensary 30017  
Stanley Chinese Public Dispensary 39654

## Hospitals

Tung Wah Hospital 28166  
Tung Wah Eastern Hospital 26048  
Sai Ying Pun Out-patient Department, Queen's Road 33628  
Queen Mary Hospital 34141

## Health Offices

Health Office, Central (Health Officer, Anti-Epidemic) 39618  
" " West 39638  
" " East 39355

## KOWLOON

## Port Health Inoculation Clinics

\*Port Health Inoculation Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui 58673

## Chinese Public Dispensaries

Yau-mat Chinese Public Dispensary 56731  
Shamshupo Chinese Public Dispensary 59610  
Hung Hom Chinese Public Dispensary 58277

## Hospitals

Kowloon Hospital Out-patient Department 58161  
Kwong Wah Hospital 58069

## Health Office

Health Office—Kowloon 59700

## NEW TERRITORIES

Sat Kung Dispensary 59873  
Cheung Chau Hospital  
Tai O Dispensary Through  
Taipo Dispensary Through  
Sha Tau Kok Dispensary 58101, 58102, or 58131  
Fanning (Ho Tung Dispensary) Through  
San Hui Dispensary (Tai Po Exchange)  
Health Office, Tai Po

Arrangements for the free inoculation of groups of persons may be made by application to the Health Officer, Anti-Epidemic, G.P.O. Building, or to any Health Office.

Individuals may be inoculated at any of the public dispensaries or Government subsidised hospitals.

Certificates of inoculation will NOT be provided except at the Port Health Clinics started. These clinics issue certificates for persons leaving the Colony at a charge of 50c.

## DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES.

Hong Kong, March 30, 1949.

## IN THE MATTER of the Companies (Reconstruction of Records) Ordinance, 1947

and

## IN THE MATTER of Acquisitions Limited

NOTICE is hereby given that the abovenamed company has lost its Memorandum of Association and that it is proposed to adopt a new Memorandum of Association.

A copy of the proposed new Memorandum of Association may be inspected at the office of the Company at Prince's Building, third floor, Des Voeux Road Central, Victoria, in the Colony of Hong Kong at any time during office hours.

Any person who objects to such proposed new Memorandum of Association should state briefly in writing the nature of the objections to such proposed new Memorandum of Association and should file the same with the Registrar of Companies, Supreme Court, Hong Kong, within the address for service within the Colony of the person objecting thereto not later than the 29th day of April, 1949.

Dated the 28th day of March, 1949.

JOHNSON, STOKES & MASSEY

Solicitors for Acquisitions Limited

## IN THE MATTER of the Companies (Reconstruction of Records) Ordinance, 1947

and

## IN THE MATTER of L. R. Nielson &amp; Co., Limited.

NOTICE is hereby given that the abovenamed company has lost its Memorandum of Association and that it is proposed to adopt a new Memorandum of Association.

A copy of the proposed new Memorandum of Association may be inspected at the office of the Company at Prince's Building, third floor, Des Voeux Road Central, Victoria, in the Colony of Hong Kong at any time during office hours.

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Dated the 28th day of March, 1949.

JOHNSON, STOKES & MASSEY

Solicitors for L. R. Nielson & Co., Ltd.

## CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



"Young lady! The answer to the question is 'yes!'—not 'yes???'"

## BARCLAY ON BRIDGE

By Shepard Barclay

"The Authority on Authorities"

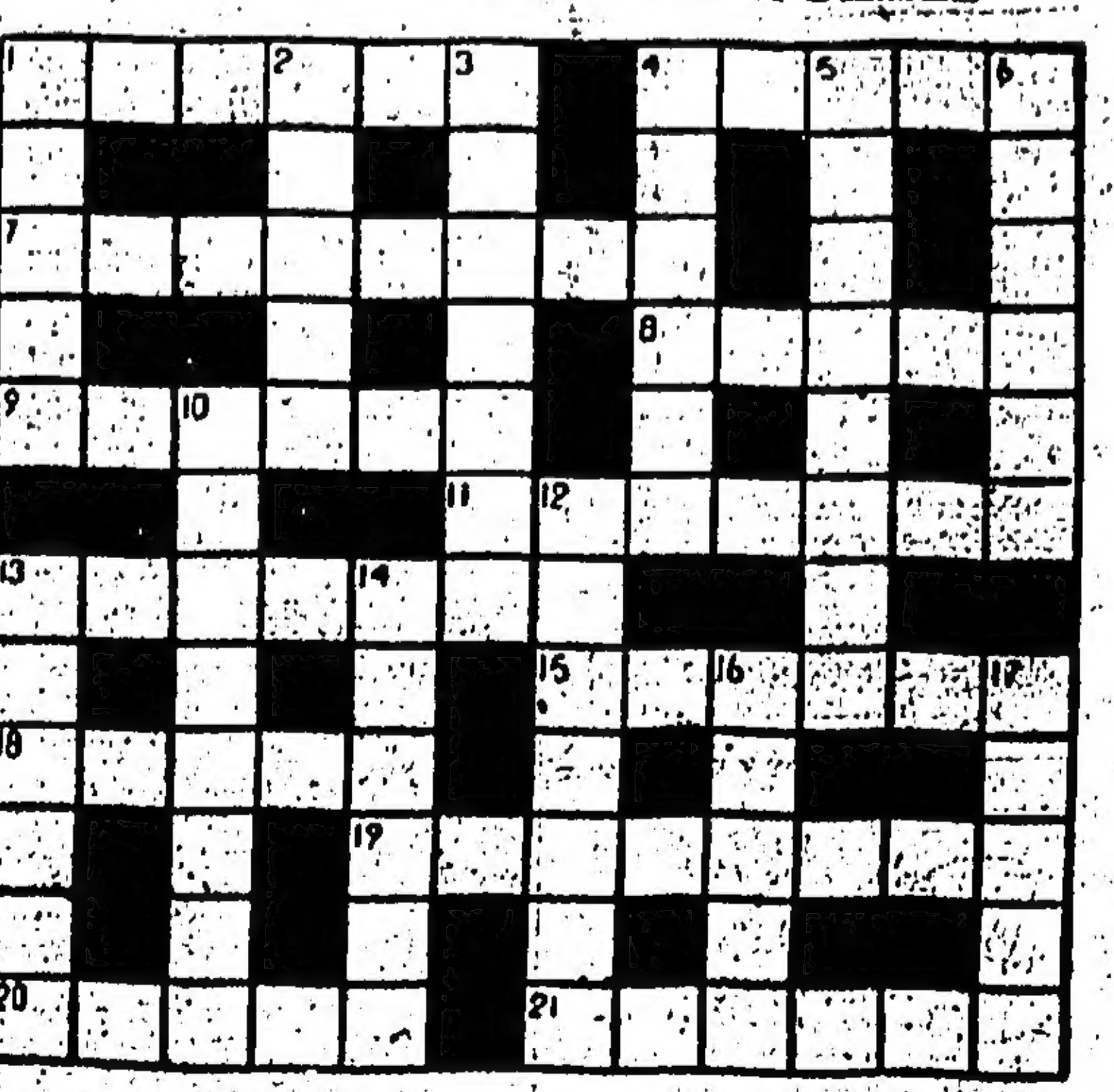
GAME AFTER PASSING  
HAVE YOU ever reached a makeable game contract after both you and your partner had passed? That is distinctly possible, and should happen once in a while. Suppose you are vulnerable and have heard the opponent at your left open the bidding, then receive as a response the call of another suit by his partner. Isn't there a chance that they have nearly all the strength which you don't hold yours? Sticking your neck out then might result in a heavy beating. But if the first opponent then makes another minimum call which his partner passes, this danger is over and you can enter the arena with a fair holding.

Pass 3 S Pass 4 H  
That was mighty nice going by South, not fancy, but merely sane and sound. He would have been risking the hatchet like that Christmas turkey if he had led a bid, even at the level of one, over East's 1-Heart. Suppose East had maximum strength for that, and South was just below enough for an opening bid of two. In that event he might have been lucky to take "your" tricks with his meagre holding, and might even have been set as many as four tricks for a loss of 800 points when his opponents could not have made a slam against his two aces.

But when East passed the 2-Clubs, the situation was entirely different. Now South knew he was not between two powerful hands. Therefore he knew North had a fair hand. So he tried his luck with 2-Spades. North, well knowing South counted on him for fair strength, was better than fair, so gave a raise, and the plucky South went the rest of the way to game. He was glad he did, for it was made neatly, with the loss of only two tricks in clubs and one in diamonds.

Your Week-End Question:  
With what type of hand is it usually desirable to bid as high as you dare at once? And with what kind is it more profitable as a rule to proceed slowly?

## A BRITISH CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across  
1 Medicine 13 Allow 15 Fault  
4 Beer 16 Fragment  
7 Undeveloped 18 Courteous  
8 Spy 19 Steward  
9 Attach 20 Hate  
11 One  
Down  
1 Geometrical 10 Product  
15 Fault 12 Intervener  
2 Lover 13 Street trading  
3 Wooded 14 Lay bare  
6 Lubricant 16 Combat  
5 Familiar 17 Taut  
8 Stretch

Yesterday's Crossword  
Across  
1 Lava 2 Silo 3 Argon 4 Opposed  
5 Lava 6 Silo 7 Argon 8 Opposed  
9 Lava 10 Silo 11 Argon 12 Opposed  
13 Lava 14 Silo 15 Argon 16 Opposed  
17 Lava 18 Silo 19 Argon 20 Opposed  
Down  
1 Lava 2 Silo 3 Argon 4 Opposed  
5 Lava 6 Silo 7 Argon 8 Opposed  
9 Lava 10 Silo 11 Argon 12 Opposed  
13 Lava 14 Silo 15 Argon 16 Opposed  
17 Lava 18 Silo 19 Argon 20 Opposed





An artist's impression of one of the most dramatic scenes in Warner's drama, "Johnny Belinda," coming to the King's and Lee Theatres next week. The picture stars Miss Jane Wyman, who won the Academy Award for the best female acting performance in 1948.

## Award Winner Coming To Screen Next Week

Showing simultaneously at the Lee and King's Theatres next week will be "Johnny Belinda" with Jane Wyman in the role which has won for her the coveted Academy Award for the best actress of the year.

Directed with great understanding by Jean Negulesco, Miss Wyman's outstanding performance as the deaf and dumb farm girl has made screen history.

The story could have been sordid in other, less fastidious hands, but Jane Wyman's portrayal of the afflicted Belinda is inexpressibly moving and beautiful in its utter sincerity. Supported by a perfectly chosen cast, this unusual and courageous film will remain one of the most memorable as well as the most discussed.

The story is set on an isolated homestead in the barren farming country of Nova Scotia where the struggle for existence lasts daily, from dawn to dusk.

Belinda, the farmer's daughter, is drudge and maid-of-all-work. Because she is deaf and dumb, she is assumed to be half-witted as well, until the kindly young village doctor takes an interest in her, teaches her lip-reading and sign language.

Low Ayres, with his quiet charm is ideal as the doctor who is first to show sympathy and give her help.

Charles Bickford, as Belinda's father, gives a fine and impressive performance as the hardworking

## Sad Eclipse For Judy's 'Steady' Boy

Teen-age love, singing, dancing, music and laughter are the main ingredients of "A Date With Judy", coming next week to the Queen's Theatre.

Vivacious Jane Powell is Judy, and Scotty Beckett is the "steady" boy friend whose love life suffers a sad eclipse when the older man moves into view in the shape of Robert Stack... tall, dark and handsome and all of 24!

Elizabeth Taylor, as Judy's dominating elder sister, is the spitt, sophisticated girl who knows all the answers... or thinks she does.

Xavier Cugat and his band, plus Carmen Miranda, move in on the song and dance sequences, and the fiery Carmen adds and abets with Cugat in providing a little love interest of more mature vintage.

Quite the best spot in the show is the imitable Carmen taking Judy's father (Wallace Beery) in hand and teaching him to do the rumba. She wears a hat like the top of a mop and several huge gold chains as big as any town mayor's... but can she do the rumba!

Wallace looks more like a baby elephant than usual, but no one can say he doesn't try.

Of course, the family are quite convinced that Carmen is out for father's scalp and the rest of the film chiefly concerns their misguided attempts to "save" him. Still, everyone agrees to live happily, we assume, ever after.

## An Ermine, A Hussar And A Dash Of Legs

You like Betty Grable, don't you? (If not, turn immediately to the Finance and Commerce section.) But if, like me, you adore that glorified version of the shop assistant's dream, complete with multi-toothed smile and shapely underpinning—have you been sharing my views ever since those delectable instruments of locomotion were continuously obscured in the "Shocking Miss Pilgrim"?

If so, perhaps you can sympathise with the feelings of us Grable fans when we descended on mase on the newly-opened Roxy the other day to see the latest super-duper. "That Lady in Ermine," a simply fabulous Technicolor example of what Hollywood can do to a legend if it tries.

I immediately identified myself as was expected of me, with the dashing captain played by Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. (who, by the way, gave us a cross between one of his father's jumps and Fred Astaire practising) who is as puzzled as the audience by the "incidental" lure of a beautiful painting and its present-day relic (a nation). (Yes, La Grable: how did you guess?)

The handsome pair are very much to the foreground all the time, as the Hungarian hussar who takes over the castle in battle, and the countess who has been done out of her inheritance by the onset of polite, pre-1914 warfare. Her ancestress (she of the painting in

## A Nightmare Builds A Dream House

In her own delicate and entirely feminine manner, Myrna Loy is one of the screen's best comedians.

Teamed with Cary Grant and Melvyn Douglas, each with their own special brand of humour, we have a trio which makes "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House" (Roxy Theatre) the most hilarious comedy we have seen for many a long month.

Blandings—Cary Grant—is one of those American advertising men who sit up nights thinking of slogans for a ham called "Wham."

He and Mrs. Blandings, otherwise Myrna, live in a cramped Manhattan apartment where a man can't even get a peek in his own shaving mirror.

### Alias The Wolf

So when Mr. Blandings decides to build a dream house way out in the country, he really spreads himself, aided, but not always abetted, by lawyer friend Melvyn Douglas, otherwise the "Wolf" his wife used to know at College.

Mr. Blandings doesn't really know very much about building even a doll's house, let alone a dream house, but lots of sparkling fun is had by all, and Mrs. Blandings is finally carried over the threshold of the half-finished love nest and straight on to the newly varnished floor.

The film sparkles with fun and laughter as the Blandings try to settle down in their unfinished, unfurnished and extremely chilly abode. But love survives in spite of all hardships, even when they have to wear fur coats over their pyjamas.

## Scandinavian Film Planned

The three Scandinavian countries—Norway, Denmark and Sweden, are jointly planning to make a film based on the life of Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, the famous Norwegian explorer, humanitarian, and author of the "Nansen Passport" for stateless refugees.

Style similar to that employed in "Scott of the Antarctic" is to be used for the making of the film and actors from all three countries are to participate in what is hailed as a film that will be best able to carry Nansen's ever-topical message to a world which is still suffering want and anxiety.

Details of the film are at present being discussed with Odd Nansen, the late explorer's son.

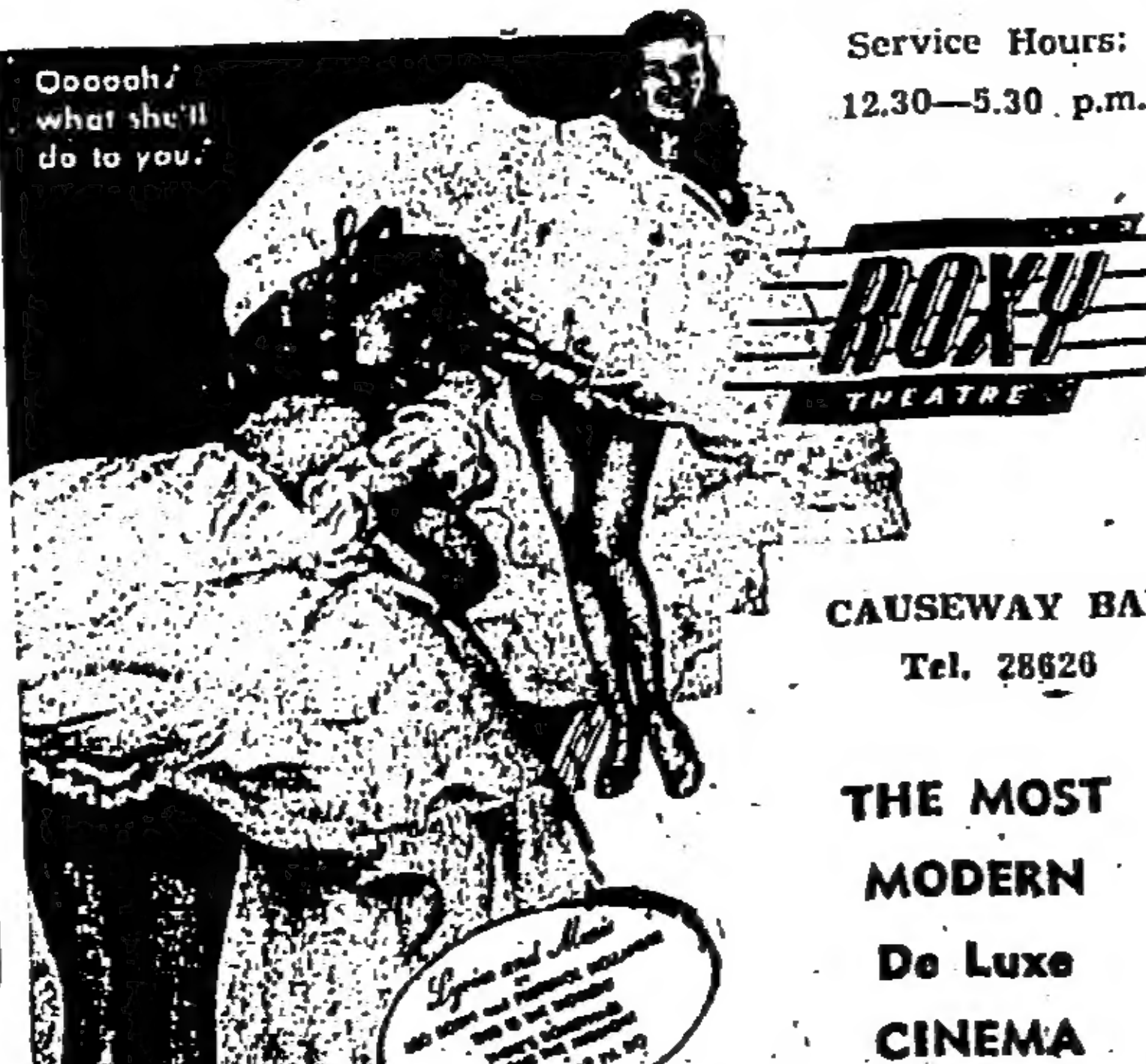
Production date has not yet been fixed.

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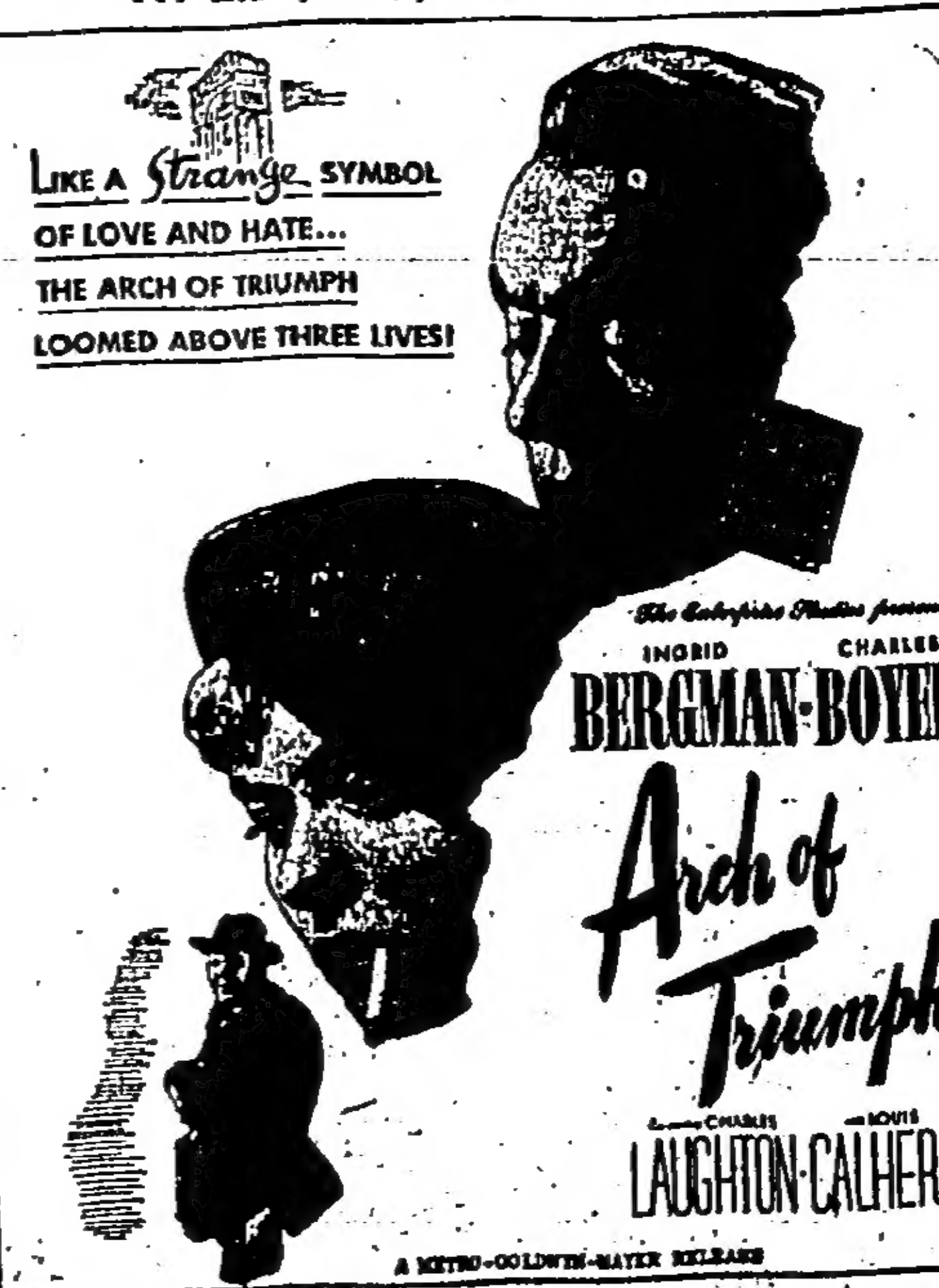


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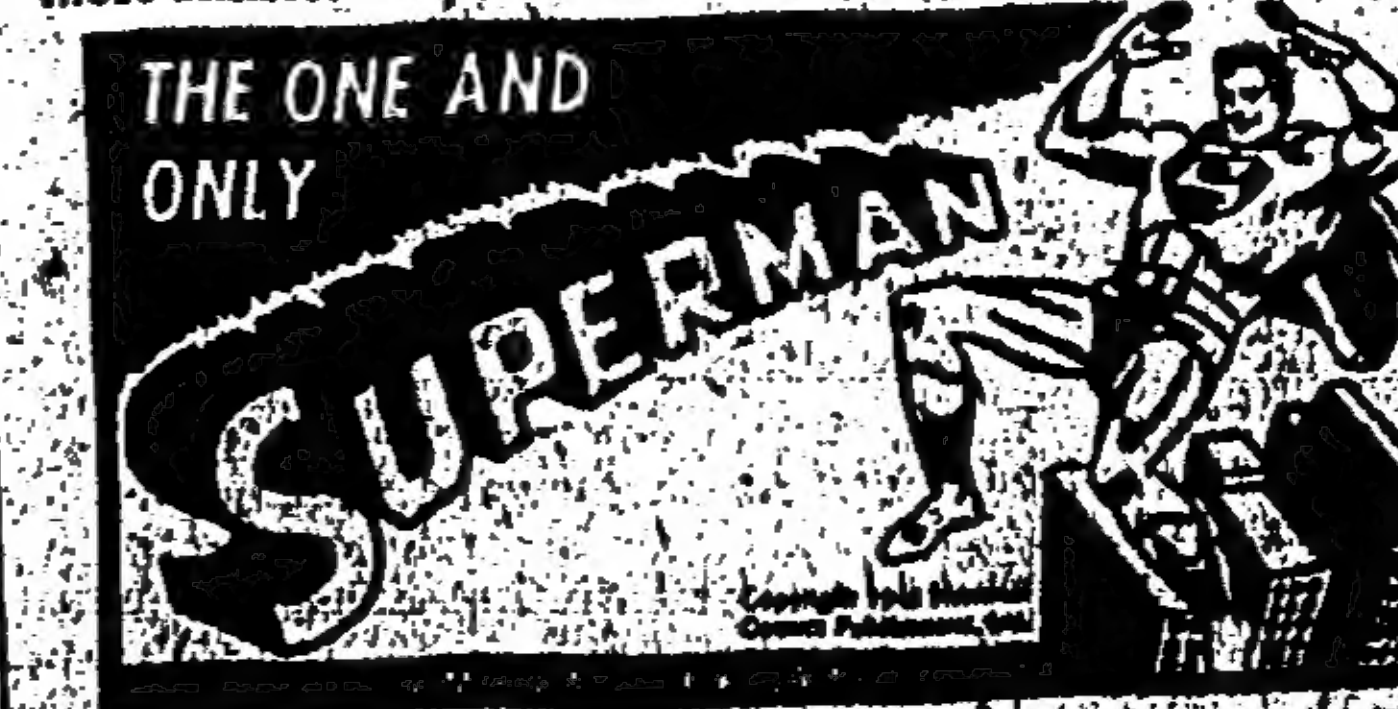


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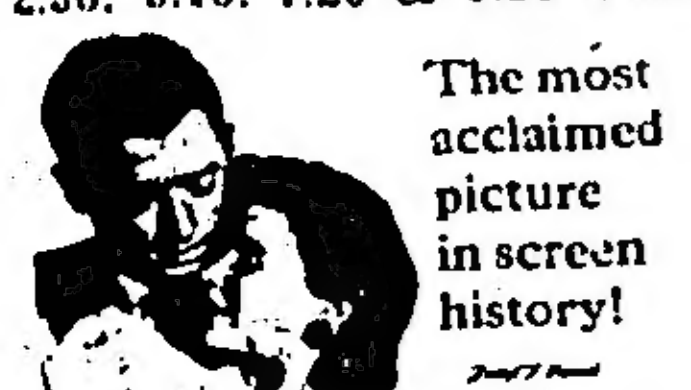
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MANILA	Monday	4th.	"
BANGKOK	Monday	4th.	"
RANGOON	Monday	4th.	"
SINGAPORE	Monday	4th.	"
MANILA	Wednesday	6th.	"
BANGKOK	Friday	8th.	"
SINGAPORE	Friday	8th.	"
MANILA	Saturday	9th.	"
BANGKOK	Monday	11th.	"
MANILA	Monday	11th.	"
RANGOON	Monday	11th.	"
SINGAPORE	Monday	11th.	"

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addressed to Editor-in-Chief.

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munications should be addressed  
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## ENGAGEMENT

KEMP-HUME.—The engagement  
is announced between  
Margaret Jessie, only  
daughter of Mr. & Mrs. D. W.  
Hume of "Woodside," Quarry  
Bay, Hongkong, and George  
Albert, younger son of Mrs.  
S. E. Kemp of Mirfield,  
Yorkshire, and the late Mr.  
D. Kemp, formerly of  
Shanghai.

## PRESS RELATIONS

The Hong Kong public,  
perhaps because of its lack  
of a vote, is more interest-  
ed in local affairs, in all as-  
pects, than the citizens of a  
mature democracy such as  
Britain. The Press, for in-  
stance, is much more taken  
for granted at Home, where  
many other outlets of self-  
expression are available, and  
matters concerning the wel-  
fare of newspapers are less  
interesting to the ordinary  
reader than the internal prob-  
lems of chain stores.

Especially since the war,  
there has been in Britain a  
mushroom growth of what  
are known as Press Relations  
Officers, employed at first  
mainly by government de-  
partments, but subsequently  
by almost every large or-  
ganisation in existence.  
These functionaries are in-  
tended as the only employee  
whom a newspaper can ap-  
proach for information about  
the concern, thus obviating  
unwise statements by direc-  
tors or managers in a mo-  
ment of expansiveness. In  
the main, the PRO's deal  
almost solely with the Press,  
theoretically answering in-  
quiries, writing subtle propa-  
ganda pieces and the like.  
One would have imagined  
that the persons chosen to  
fulfil this post would invari-  
ably have been journalists,  
men and women who knew  
exactly what editors wanted,  
and could provide it.

One would have been very  
wrong. In about 90 per cent  
of all cases, before his ap-  
pointment the PRO has  
never seen the inside of a  
newspaper office except on  
the films, but is a person who  
can be relied upon to pre-  
vent any unfavourable in-  
formation about his own firm  
or department from reaching  
the public, while flooding  
news editors' trays with en-  
thusiastic items saying how  
wonderful his employers are.  
An explosion may wreck a  
factory, the cashier may dis-  
appear with the payroll, mu-  
tiny may break out on a  
warship, but the PRO will  
blandly deny all knowledge  
of such an occurrence, add-  
ing, however, that there is a  
cocktail party next Wednes-  
day.

The situation has become  
so offensive that a number  
of newspapers at Home for-  
bid their reporters to ap-  
proach or receive any in-  
formation whatsoever from  
the Press Relations Office of  
any organisation.

In Hong Kong we have  
only one such permanent  
office, that of the govern-  
ment, and during the budget  
debate Mr. P. S. Cassidy in-  
imated that in this respect  
"we were 50 years behind the  
times," and that considerably  
more funds should be pro-  
vided to enable it "to foster  
an interest in the democratic  
way of life." Just in what  
way the extra money would  
be spent, Mr. Cassidy did not  
say. For our part, we can-  
not imagine, unless it was to  
be used to import skilled  
extra staff from England.  
Money is not required for a  
good liaison with the Press.  
Journalists required reliable,  
full information, and they  
require it quickly.  
At the moment they are

The Edwardian era had arriv-  
ed, and the effect upon the Vic-  
torian was about the same as  
would be produced by the sud-  
den intrusion of a Viennese hus-  
sar in an English vicarage.  
The exigencies of parliamen-  
tary government required the  
residence of the sovereign in  
London at prescribed intervals, a  
condition much to my grand-  
father's taste.  
Buckingham Palace where  
Queen Victoria had spent only a  
few nights a year since her hus-  
band's death, needed renovating,  
and Windsor Castle, also Crown  
property, was in sore need of  
modern conveniences.

variety of the more beautiful  
English countryside.  
But he had built the big house  
there for his wife and children,  
the estate contained wonder-  
ful covert for game, which was  
what mattered most to him.  
The big house where my grand-  
parents lived was a rambling,  
red brick structure, of an un-  
fathomable style of which the  
secret happily died with the  
Victorian architects.  
A quarter of a mile away,  
within the estate grounds, stood  
York Cottage originally built as  
the Bachelor's Cottage to hold the  
overflow of guests from the big  
house.

to which we were summoned  
for punishment and reproof.  
It was memorable for the fact  
that the walls were covered with  
a dark red cloth—the same cloth  
used for the trousers of the  
French Army of the period.  
My mother never knew where  
he got the idea that this material  
would make an original kind of  
wallpaper.  
But my father loved this red  
cloth, and when one summer the  
moths got into it he was heart-  
broken over having to remove the  
last shreds.  
If my family could be said to  
have had a home in the conven-  
tional sense it was this "Cottage."

But my father's commitments  
in the way of houses did not  
end here. When my parents fol-  
lowed the Court to Windsor,  
they occupied Frogmore, a Geo-  
rgian house in the grounds of  
Windsor Castle.  
Finally, Abergeldie, an old  
castle, covered with white stucco,  
which you could pick off with  
your finger nails, three miles  
down the River Dee from Bal-  
moraul, was placed at my father's  
disposal for the grouse shooting  
and deer-stalking season.  
Its most ornamental feature  
was a big stone tower, inhabited  
by bats and, we always imagin-  
ed, by the ghost of Kiltie Runkle,  
a legendary witch who was  
burned on the mountain opposite.  
While York Cottage and Marl-  
borough House contained some  
modern conveniences and had  
electricity, the last two houses  
each had but one bath, situated,  
of course, in my father's rooms.  
The other inmates had to per-  
form their ablutions as best they  
could with water carried by the  
servants in huge bowls from the  
kitchen and poured into shallow  
tin tubs, and when it was dusk,  
the gaslight was turned on.

Between these four different  
establishments, my family  
migrated with the seasons like a  
flock of birds.  
**The Calendar**  
Our moves were governed by  
the sittings of Parliament, the  
Court calendar and the London  
season.  
February and March would find  
my father and mother at Marl-  
borough House.  
For Easter they would go either  
to York Cottage or Frogmore for  
the first days of the lovely  
English spring.  
May and June would find them  
back at Marlborough House for  
the London season with its round  
of public and private dinner  
parties, presentations at Court,  
balls, interrupted by a ten days'  
visit to Frogmore for the Ascot  
races.  
Then, as the social season  
waned, my parents would utilise  
the full to tour different parts of  
Britain, inspecting housing de-  
velopments, dedicating high-  
ways, visiting hospitals and  
opening fairs.  
Late in July my father would  
vanish from our childhood ken,  
not to be seen except perhaps  
for a fleeting glimpse until the  
family all came together again  
in August at Abergeldie.  
We would presently hear of  
him yacht racing at Cowes.  
Then the opening of the grouse  
shooting season on August 12  
would find him tramping the  
Scottish moors of his friends.  
During this summer period my  
mother would take us all to  
Frogmore for a quiet and restful  
month.

We always had a wonderful  
time there, cruising up and down  
the Thames in our tiny electric  
launch with a white tasseled  
top.  
Windsor, with its cool, gray  
walls, and countless turrets, lay  
on beyond the green meadows;  
its miles of roofs were wonderful  
for climbing.  
And the formal white colon-  
nades of Frogmore contemplated  
a charming lake, bordered by  
willows and elms and daffodil  
beds, which to my mother, was  
the essence of tranquillity, but  
which to Bertie, Mary, and me  
was the fertile scene of endless  
pirate battles and nautical ad-  
ventures fought in our fleet of  
rowboats.

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(To Be Continued Tomorrow)

where the servants slept, my  
father answered that he didn't  
know, but supposed it was in the  
loose.  
My parents rooms were notable  
during my childhood as posses-  
sing the only two baths (in the  
house, reserved for them alone).  
Our weekly tub was given in  
the nursery and, later after  
Bertie and I grew up, in our tiny  
bedroom on the second floor.  
The excitement when new  
bathrooms were added and elec-  
tricity and a telephone installed  
was intense.  
To us children the most impor-  
tant room in the "Cottage" was  
my father's study, a small and  
cheerless room where he would  
work and relax after shooting.



Balmoral, built by Victoria  
with the family's funds and  
dedicated by her to my grand-  
father, had already been moder-  
nised to some extent.  
He always enjoyed brief visits  
to this retreat in the Highlands  
after his annual visits to the cure  
resorts on the Continent.  
But he had no love for Os-  
borne House, another inheritance,  
and lost to time in handing it  
over to the State as a convales-  
cent hospital for officer casualties  
of the Boer War.

My grandparents had given  
this house to my father as a  
wedding present.  
My sister and my four brothers  
were all born there; the last ad-  
dition to the family being  
George later Duke of Kent, in  
1902 and John, the youngest, in  
1905, both now dead.

**Our Rooms**  
In the process of making room  
for them the house suffered all  
the indignities of improved  
engenderment.  
Even so, when the whole family  
was assembled under the roof,  
together with a lady-in-waiting  
for Papa, a governess for Mary,  
and one or two tutors for my brothers  
and myself, the "Cottage" was  
full to bursting so much so that  
when a puzzled visitor asked

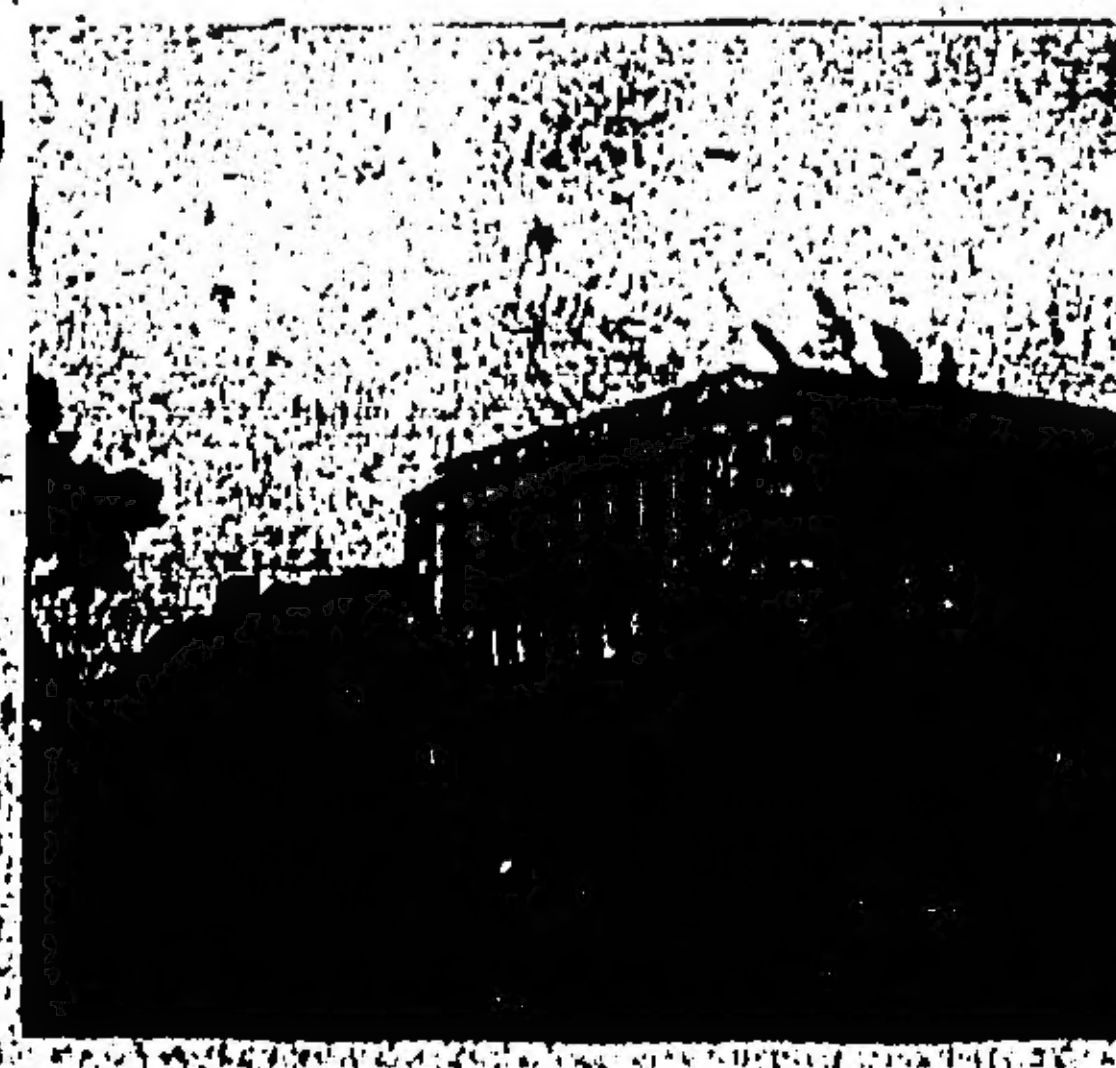


Self at work II

where the servants slept, my  
father answered that he didn't  
know, but supposed it was in the  
loose.  
My parents rooms were notable  
during my childhood as posses-  
sing the only two baths (in the  
house, reserved for them alone).  
Our weekly tub was given in  
the nursery and, later after  
Bertie and I grew up, in our tiny  
bedroom on the second floor.  
The excitement when new  
bathrooms were added and elec-  
tricity and a telephone installed  
was intense.  
To us children the most impor-  
tant room in the "Cottage" was  
my father's study, a small and  
cheerless room where he would  
work and relax after shooting.

DO YOU  
KNOW  
YOUR  
HONG  
KONG?

Can you re-  
cognise where  
this picture was  
taken? The an-  
swer is in Page  
Seven.



Manila's "unidentified subma-  
rines" seem to be launching dan-  
gerously personal attacks. Accord-  
ing to a report, the governor  
"urged additional policing against  
what he called a potential threat  
to national security."

"A small police force planned  
for Hong Kong."  
Calling all pigmies

"Chinese want to get into Pacific  
Fact."  
But what was all that I heard  
about a pact with Mao?  
It was revealed yesterday that  
a surgeon's missing forelegs had  
been found in the tummy of a  
lady who had been operated on  
two and a half years previously.  
The authorities point out that  
owing to the vigilance of the staff,  
there was never any doubt as to  
the whereabouts of the anaesthetis-  
ing machine and the stretcher.

An establishment in Happy  
Valley advertises itself as a  
BAR BEB shop. Reminds me of  
Goldlocks and the three bar files.  
Then there's the tailor who  
sports the following sign: "Ladies  
have fits upstairs." (Well, why  
didn't you stop me?)

We scientists who pin our hopes  
on sharing out the isotopes,  
Think they are very different  
from  
That dreadful thing—the atom  
bomb.

We'd fain do anything we can  
To help along our fellow man.  
And in these our frustrated urge  
Fears no committee, and no  
pargo.  
And common folk who learn of it  
Will not spurn those who atoms  
split.

—The Scientists.  
Old rhymes remodelled.  
Where are you going, my pretty  
Maid?

Report from Home says that  
under the National Health  
Scheme dentists seem to have  
struck oil.  
Drilling continues.

"School" menus. Meat loaf,  
mashed potatoes, string beans,  
semi-colons or vegetable soup,  
ham sandwich.  
Carrying school a bit far, don't  
you think?

Race course motto: Abandon  
dope all ye who enter here.

Myrtle's grandfather says that  
with respect to the world at  
large, the American taxpayer is  
fast becoming his brother's  
keeper-upper.



"Must have heard a buzz  
about the smaller meat ration."

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# SHIP FREIGHTS 'WAR' CARRIED TO BRITAIN

## Dutch Sending Ships To United Kingdom Ports ACCEPTING LOW RATES

### TENSION RISING IN RANGOON

Rangoon, March 30. Rangoon police were ordered to stand by today after adherents of the pro-Communist White Hand People's Volunteer Organisation had kidnapped some policemen.

This followed persistent rumours that the PVOs from the interior are massing outside the city for large-scale infiltration.

An official statement said the kidnapped police had attempted to make inquiries into a recent armed robbery here. The police were later released after questioning.

Tension is mounting in Rangoon in the absence of an official announcement of a reported understanding between the Government and the PVO leaders, under which the PVO would be given important Cabinet posts.

Official sources said a final settlement with the PVOs is unlikely before the return of the Prime Minister. Thakin Nu, reported to be at Myittha, the capital of Kachin State, North Burma.

The Rangoon district magistrate today ordered a dusk-to-dawn curfew without explaining why.

### Rods Parade

Police hurried fear gas bombs today to disperse crowds of striking Government employees who attempted to picket the offices of the Controller of Posts and Telegraphs in Rangoon. Some of the strikers were arrested.

Later, Indians carrying a flag bearing a hammer and sickle, marched through the streets chanting "down with the Capitalists."

Unidentified rebels captured the important rail town of Taikkyi, 42 miles North of Rangoon, a Government press release admitted today.

Buddhist monasteries were razed to the ground when Karens burned down Shweluang village in the rice-growing district of Myaungmyi, South West of Rangoon.

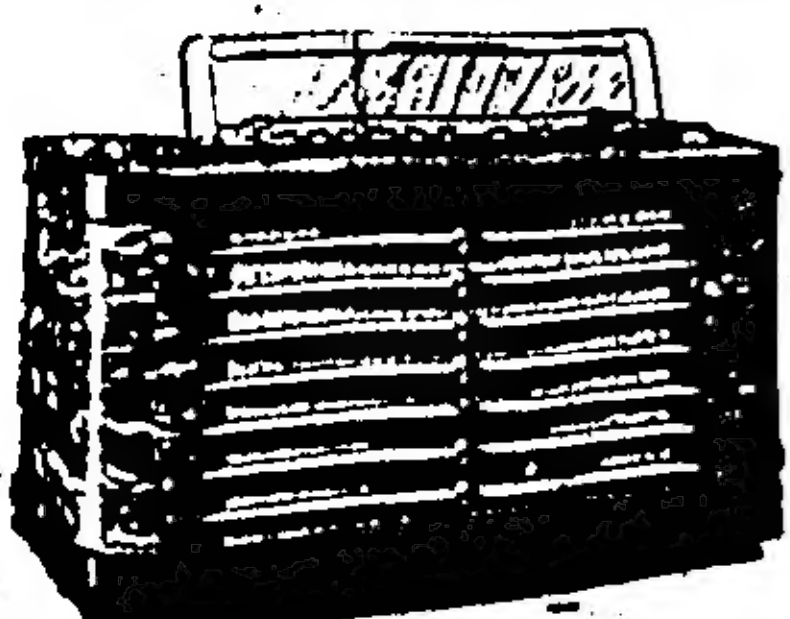
According to a statement, several other Burmese-populated villages in adjoining areas were also destroyed.—Reuter and Associated Press.

### NEW PLANES FOR BOAC

London, March 30. The first of 22 Canadian IV planes, ordered by the British Overseas Airways Corporation, was officially handed over at London Airport today.

The plane, flown by a Canadian crew, reached England yesterday from Montreal.

A 40-passenger aircraft, the Canadian IV is expected to make its debut for BOAC on the Far Eastern run, though the recent amalgamation of the British South American Airways with BOAC may result in some of the new Canadian-built planes flying the South American route, which was once operated by Tudors.—Reuter.



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### TOO MUCH HUSH-HUSH IN LONDON

Melbourne, March 30. An attack on what it called the atmosphere of mystery around the Commonwealth Conference, announced for April 21 by Mr. Clement Attlee, the Prime Minister, in the House of Commons yesterday, was made by the "Sydney Morning Herald" today.

The paper said that uncertainty and even misgivings would be stimulated in the public of the Commonwealth by the excessive reticence, and added: "The question of a public discussion on Commonwealth matters should not be regarded in the same light as 'open' or 'secret' diplomacy between nations entirely foreign to each other."

Other papers said the Conference would be of great importance, with India's future status as probably the chief item on the agenda.—Reuter.

### 'White Hope' Of British Aviation

London, March 30. The De Havilland Aircraft Company announced today that it hopes to put into the air this year a new jet airliner which is expected to fly from London to New York in about seven hours.

The plane is the Comet DH-106—Britain's first jet airliner, and the "white hope" of British civil aviation.

Experts believe the plane will put Britain five years ahead of the airlines of other countries when it comes into service—probably in 1952.

The De Havilland Company disclosed today that the airliner is expected to have a cruising speed approaching 500 miles an hour at about 40,000 feet. It will carry an operational flight crew of four and up to 38 passengers, accommodated in fully reclining seats similar to the American "sleeperettes."

It will be powered by four De Havilland "Ghost" engines, mounted on low, swept-back wings and with retractable tricycle under-carriage with a steerable nosewheel.

Sixteen Comets are being built at the De Havilland factories at Hatfield, 30 miles North of London.

Some experts have foreseen the new airliners flying to Sydney, Australia, in little more than 24 hours. They believe they will whip the cream off the North Atlantic traffic because of their speed and comfort.

The prototype is not yet approaching the flying stage, but it may be flying before the end of the year, the company said today.—Reuter.

### COMMONS SNUB FOR PIRATIN

London, March 30. The Communist Member of Parliament, Philip Piratin, asked the Government in the House of Commons today why the United States had been allowed to station an "atom bomb squadron" in Britain.

Mr. Arthur Henderson, Secretary of State for Air, replied that all American squadrons in Britain are here for goodwill and training purposes. He said he saw no reason why the 500th long-range Bomber Group—a fleet of 30 B-29s—should not be welcomed with the rest merely because its wartime function was to drop atom bombs on Japan.

Mr. Henderson was cheered by the House.—United Press.

### Note Of Caution On Empire Talks

London, March 30. The British press today expressed doubt that the forthcoming Commonwealth conference would make constitutional readjustments to include Republican units within the Commonwealth framework.

"The Times" editorial said: "Working out of an appropriate new relationship with India may be more difficult for some of the Dominions than for the United Kingdom."

It added: "Only when the views of other members on Indian proposals have been ascertained can the conference approach drafting of a formula to define the new relationship."

It commented that the South African Premier, Daniel Malan, is of special importance.

The "Daily Telegraph" editorial also struck a cautious note on the eventual outcome of the conference: "It said one of the main

topics must inevitably be whether the Commonwealth can continue in the different form already adopted by Elre.

"The Telegraph" cited Premier Nehru's reported pledge to make India an independent Republic, about which there is strong feeling in South Africa.

"If we are to contemplate a Commonwealth composed of some full and some associate members, it might not mean later securing benefits without shouldering responsibilities, and what, in such a case, would be the attraction or advantage of maintaining a Commonwealth at all?"—United Press.

### HONG KONG WAR DAMAGE CLAIMS

London, March 30.

Opposition Members of Parliament today questioned Mr. David Rees Williams, Under-Secretary for the Colonies, about the different attitude adopted by the authorities in Hong Kong towards war damage compensation compared with that in Malaya and Borneo.

Replying to Mr. Leonard Gammans, Conservative, Mr. Rees Williams said the total number of claims for war damage compensation received by the Government of Hong Kong was 14,723, amounting, to the nearest thousand, to £38,610,000.

Mr. Gammans: "Does the Minister not feel that, in view of the number of claims and the amount of money involved, the Government of Hong Kong might be asked to adopt a different attitude, and that what is being done in the payment of compensation in Borneo and Malaya might be followed in Hong Kong?"

Mr. Rees Williams: "I am afraid we could not make another approach to the Hong Kong Government on this matter. They have fully considered it, and for reasons given to the House they have decided not to adopt a compensation scheme of the kind in Malaya."

Air Commodore Harvey, Conservative, asked what proportion of the claims had been settled.

Mr. Rees Williams told him that there was no question of settlement because there was no scheme.

Mr. Gammans: "How can the Minister defend an entirely different method as between two colonies? Why should a man who has lost everything in Hong Kong not be compensated?"

### HK Decision Unalterable

Mr. Rees Williams: "There are differences. First, there was a contributory insurance scheme in Malaya, which there was not in Hong Kong. Secondly, Hong Kong became extremely wealthy. Trade recovered very rapidly and to a large extent the same conditions have not obtained in the whole of Malaya."

Mr. Alan Lennox Boyd, Conservative: "In view of the fact that the people who are benefited by the new prosperity may not necessarily be the same people who lost everything through bad conditions during the war, and in view of the decision of the local government, will the Minister have a new investigation made?"

Mr. Rees Williams: "I regret I cannot promise any new investigation in this matter because it has been announced for a considerable period, and that has been the unalterable decision of the Hong Kong Government."—Reuter.

### Formosan League In Hong Kong

Lake Success, March 31.

The United Nations said today that it has received a communication from the Formosan League for Re-emanicipation in Hong Kong, but declined to disclose the contents.

It is customary for the UN to withhold information on communications from private or non-governmental organisations.

A despatch from Hong Kong on Sunday said that 10 Formosan political organisations had asked the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Trygve Lie, whether it is possible to place before the General Assembly a proposal for a plebiscite to determine whether the Formosan people want independence. The Assembly meets in New York next Tuesday.

Under the UN rules, the General Assembly agenda is limited to items submitted by member governments. This would rule out any proposal for a Formosan plebiscite unless such a measure is sponsored by one of the 58 nations in the UN.—Associated Press.

### BIG BLAZE IN QUEZON CITY

Manila, March 31.

Surplus goods with an estimated value of between 500,000 and 1,000,000 pesos went up in flames which burned the Surplus Property Commission depot in nearby Quezon City.

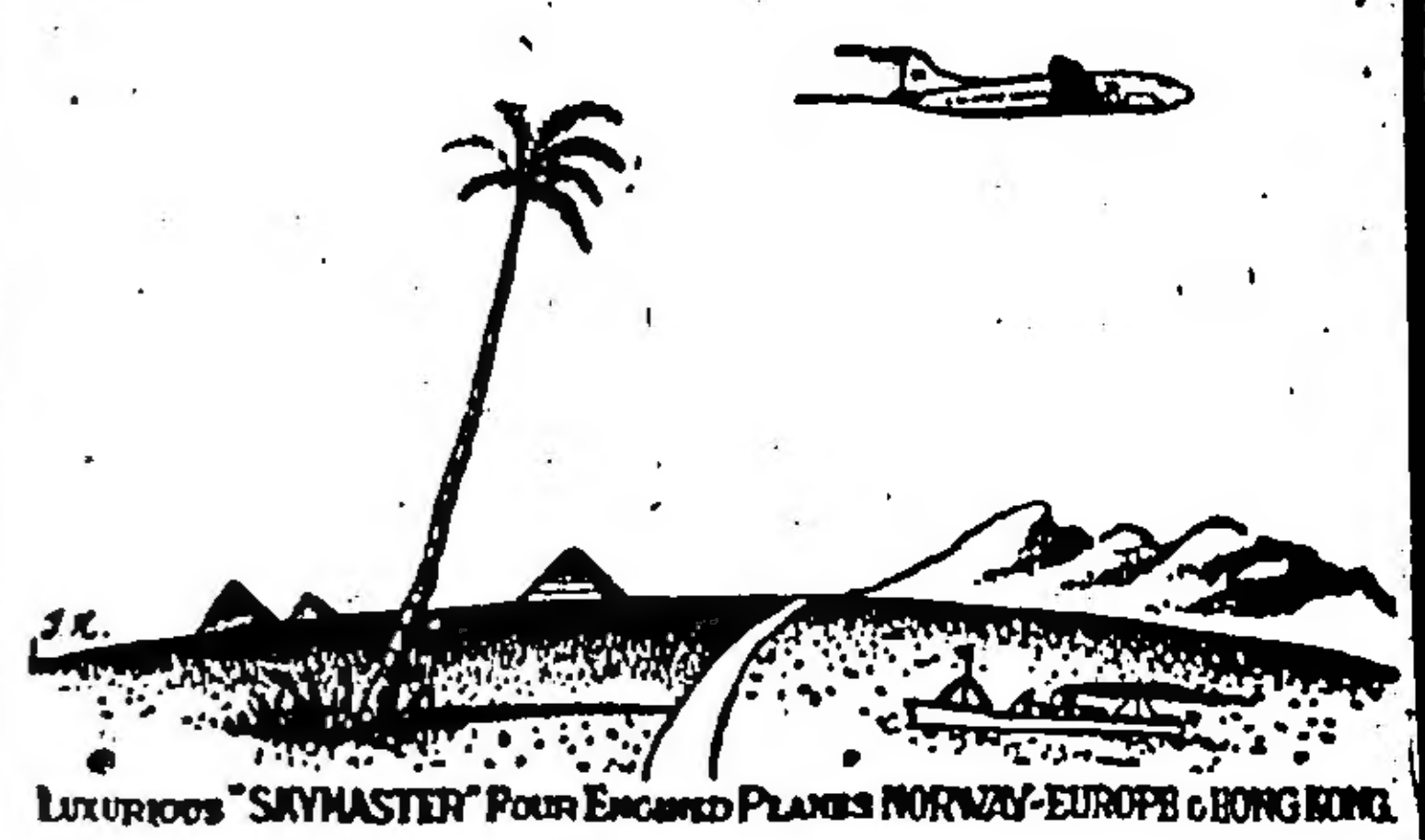
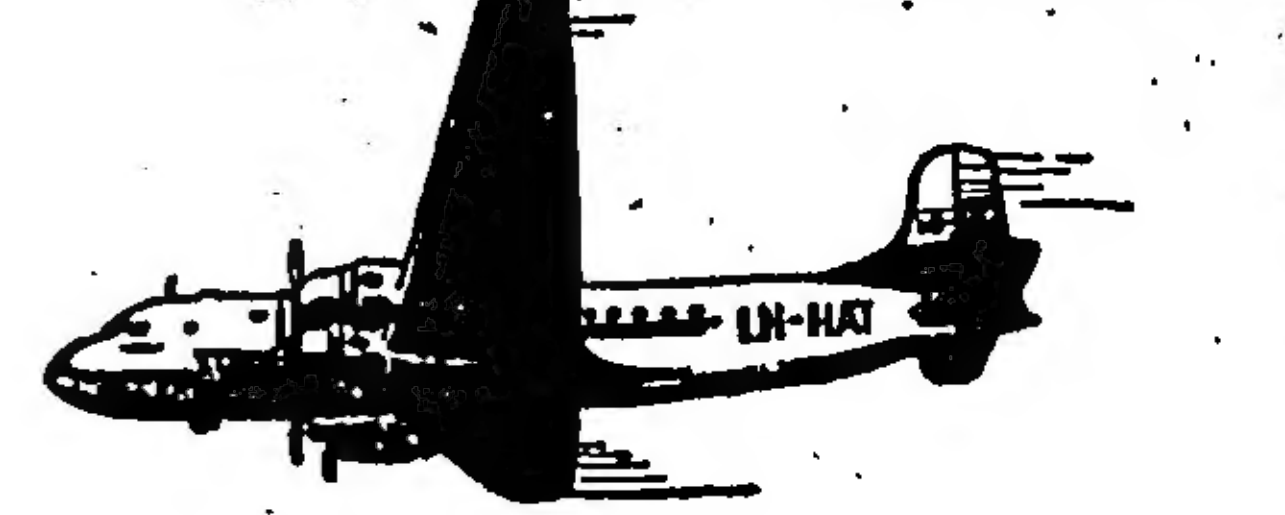
The fire started in grassland near the depot yesterday afternoon and raged until late last night, despite the concerted efforts of Quezon City, Manila, Philippine Army and U.S. Army firemen. Lack of fire hydrants in the depot area hampered efforts.

Burned goods ranged from Quartermaster supplies to office equipment and refrigerators.—United Press.

### DO YOU KNOW YOUR HONG KONG?

The photo shows the Kowloon Magistracy building.

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# SYRIAN PRESIDENT ARRESTED IN COUP

## CRISIS IN THE ARAB NATIONS

Cairo, March 30.  
Today's Egyptian evening newspapers were not allowed to publish accounts of the Syrian coup d'etat.

While it is not possible to appraise the full significance of the Syrian coup and its repercussions on the Arab world, there are indications here tonight that it has already created an atmosphere of crisis in Arab diplomatic circles.

The fact that radio and telephone communications between Egypt and Syria have been cut since this morning and the lack of official information from Arab and foreign chancelleries is much speculation about the political ambitions of Colonel Husni Zaim, who proclaimed himself dictator of Syria, and the real motives behind the coup.

If, as was rumoured here today, this coup d'etat may be the result of the "Greater Syria" plan, then it is likely seriously to affect the present structure of the Middle East, its balance of power and the future of the Arab units which comprise the Arab League.

Egyptian statesmen and politicians are extremely reserved, however, and decline to comment on the developments pending a clarification of the situation.

### REDUCTION OF SA IMPORTS

Capetown, March 30.  
The South African Government expects that overall imports into the Union will have to be reduced to 60 per cent of the 1948 figure, an official of the Department of Commerce and Industries told a meeting of Capetown businessmen today.

Imports of raw materials from non-sterling countries will be approximately halved, it is expected. The official added that the estimate is based on preliminary figures which are subject to modification.

London, March 30.  
The Syrian Army seized President Shukri El Kouatli and his entire Cabinet in a lightning coup and today had complete control of Damascus, the capital.

This report from the United States Minister in Damascus was the latest news tonight of the situation in Syria, where steel-helmeted troops carried out the coup at midnight.

Colonel Husni Zaim, the Army Commander-in-Chief, who led them, told Rauter in Damascus that urgent measures had been taken. There had been some arrests and a new constitutional government would be formed.

Reports from neighbouring Transjordan said the Syrian Army is in control of the whole country, with its population of nearly 3,000,000, after swooping on key Ministries and Government buildings.

Members of the Syrian Parliament were called to an urgent meeting tonight following the bloodless coup by the Army Command. They were to discuss the formation of a new Government.

A curfew, proclaimed early this morning after the coup, Colonel Zaim, aged 50, had seized power, is expected to be lifted tomorrow.

President Kouatli and a number of his Ministers are reported to have been placed under detention in a hospital building at Mazzeh. The Army is in occupation of the Presidency, the President's house, and of all Government buildings. All strategic points and installations in the capital are in Army hands.

It was officially stated that not a single shot was fired in completion of the coup d'etat.

### Purely Internal

The Arab and foreign Legations in Damascus were told that the reasons for the coup were purely internal, and have been assured that peace will be maintained and that the normal life of the country may be expected to return shortly.

Colonel Zaim's headquarters warned food merchants that severe punishment would follow any boosting of food prices.

Permanent Departmental officials are carrying on the administration until a new Government is formed.

Colonel Zaim told a press conference tonight that the reasons for the coup d'etat were the repeated attacks on the Syrian Army inside and outside Parliament and the attempts to pour scorn on it.

He said Army officers had been imprisoned on false charges. In addition, the people's discontent with the present situation was widespread.

Colonel Zaim said negotiations were proceeding for forming a constitutional Government, which would proceed with new general elections. He said his actions were purely domestic and any attempt to interfere in Syrian affairs, whether by Arab or foreign governments, will be opposed by force.

### Forced To Act

He concluded by saying that he had repeatedly warned those in power of the consequences of their "despotic behaviour."

Colonel Zaim proclaimed in a series of communications that the Army Command was forced to seize power temporarily. "We are not ambitious to take power, but to prepare for true democratic rule," he declared.

According to the latest reports reaching Amman by special diplomatic messenger, the Syrian President was arrested and taken to a military prison three miles outside Damascus.

An official communiqué broadcast over Syrian radio stations said the Army Command had started consultations with the former Premier, Faris Khoury, United Press.

### SHIP SINKS

La Spezia, March 30.  
A rescue ship today landed eight crew members from the 277-ton Egyptian motorship *Dio-genis*, which sank yesterday 25 miles off the Tyrrhenian coast.

The *Dio-genis*, which belongs to the Khouri Shipping Company of Alexandria, left Genoa on Monday afternoon with a 230-ton cargo of goods for Piræus. It sprang numerous leaks and sank just before reaching La Spezia.

## BMA To Have "Protection Association"

London, March 30.  
The British Medical Association—the "Doctors' Parliament"—agreed today, by an overwhelming majority, to set up a "Protection" Association, to be called the British Medical Guild.

It is suggested that the Guild have power to organize and finance collective action by the profession, and to provide compensation to doctors suffering hardship through taking part in the collective action.

A motion that a sum of at least £1,000,000 should be aimed at during the first year, to be subscribed by members whose remuneration is wholly or partly from public funds, was referred to the BMA Council.—Reuter.

## RADIO

This is Radio Hong Kong broadcasting on a frequency of 845 kilocycles per second and on 9.52 megacycles per second in the 31 metre band.

- H.K.T.**
- 12.15 p.m.—Catholic Prayer by the Rev. Father J. W. Gallacher, S.J. (Studio)
  - 12.30 p.m.—Daily Programme Summary.
  - 12.32 p.m.—Carroll Gibbons and His Dance Orch. with Jane Lee. (HICTS)
  - 1.00 p.m.—Vocal Combinations and Announcements.
  - 1.25 p.m.—Interlude.
  - 1.30 p.m.—Music for You.
  - 2.00 p.m.—Close Down.
  - 6.00 p.m.—Programme Summary.
  - 6.01 p.m.—Children's Story: "Moths in House" by Doris Brown. (HICTS)
  - 6.15 p.m.—Music of Richard Rodgers.
  - 6.30 p.m.—Cantonese by Radio, Given by Miss Lee Wai Lan and S. K. Lee. (Studio)
  - 6.50 p.m.—Harry Hayes and His Band.
  - 7.00 p.m.—World News and News Analysis. (London Relay)
  - 7.10 p.m.—Sports Preview. (Studio)
  - 7.30 p.m.—Variety Bandstand. From the Golden Gate Hippodrome, London. (HICTS)
  - 8.00 p.m.—"From the Editorials." (London Relay)
  - 8.10 p.m.—"Good Companions" Adapted from the Novel by J. H. Priestley for Broadcasting. (HICTS)
  - 9.10 p.m.—Interlude.
  - 9.18 p.m.—"The Detective in Fiction" Read by Clifford Davies. (Studio)
  - 9.35 p.m.—A Short Programme of the Music of Mozart.
  - 10.00 p.m.—Radio News Reel. (London Relay)
  - 10.15 p.m.—"This is the West of England." A Jubilee Radio Poster devised and Produced by Desmond Hewitt. (London Relay)
  - 11.15 p.m.—Weather Report and Close Down.

## Robert Mitchum Released

Hollywood, March 30.  
The actor Robert Mitchum was released from the county gaol today and was greeted by a cheering crowd.

The husky actor, who spent the past 50 days behind bars on a marijuana conviction, dashed past spectators to a county car and sped to his wife and two young sons, who were waiting for him at home. He was tanned and had shaved off the moustache he grew while serving his term.

He heard the steel doors clang behind him minutes after he had changed from his faded prison dungarees into a snappy pin-striped suit, white shirt and sombre blue tie. These were the same clothes he wore when he failed to defend himself on charges of conspiring to possess marijuana, and officers put him behind bars.

"I could have got out last night," Mitchum said on his way out of the gaolhouse door. "They asked me if I wanted to, but I told them I didn't want to disturb my sleep."

"As gaol goes, it was all right. A little like being in the Army a few weeks without a pass."—United Press.

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## CANTONESE BY RADIO

BY S.K. LEE

**Lesson 31 (E)**

**Vocabulary:**  
178. (tso) dzoh<sup>2</sup> Early.  
14. Dzoh<sup>2</sup> dee<sup>1</sup>. Earlier.

**Combination:**  
A Story: (Continued)  
27. Gom<sup>1</sup> kui dzau dah<sup>2</sup> So, he then telephoned to try to contact his friends to ask them to give him some food to eat.  
deen-wah<sup>2</sup>  
wun<sup>2</sup> kui-dee<sup>1</sup> pung-  
yau,  
tsing<sup>2</sup> kui-day bay<sup>2</sup> dee<sup>1</sup>  
yeh<sup>2</sup> kui shik.  
28. Daan<sup>2</sup> hai, kui-day But, they all said, they were too busy to come to see him.  
haam-paang-laang doh<sup>1</sup>  
wah m-duk<sup>1</sup> haan lai  
geen<sup>2</sup> kui.  
29. Gom<sup>1</sup> kui dzau Consequently, he then went himself, to look for his friends.  
dzee-gay<sup>2</sup> hui<sup>1</sup>  
wun<sup>2</sup> kui-dee<sup>1</sup> pung-  
yau.  
30. Kui wun<sup>2</sup> doh<sup>2</sup> yut<sup>1</sup> gaw<sup>2</sup> He found one friend.  
pung-yau.  
31. Kui wah: "Ngaw hoh<sup>2</sup> He said: "I'm very hungry."  
toh-ngaw ah<sup>1</sup>."  
32. "Tsing<sup>2</sup> nay bay<sup>2</sup> dee<sup>1</sup> "Please give me some food to eat."  
yeh ngaw shik lah<sup>1</sup>."  
33. Daan<sup>2</sup> hai, kui-gaw<sup>2</sup> But, his friend said:  
pung-yau wah. "I beg your pardon!"  
"Dui<sup>2</sup> m-jue!"  
34. "Ngaw yee-ging<sup>1</sup> shik- "I've already had my meal."  
jaw<sup>2</sup> faan lok<sup>1</sup>."  
35. "Deem<sup>2</sup> gaaye<sup>2</sup> nay m "Why didn't you come earlier?"  
dzoh<sup>2</sup> dee<sup>1</sup> lai neh<sup>1</sup>?"  
(To be continued)

## Plan For South America Urged

Geneva, March 30.  
The International Labour Office here today asked for the drafting of an overall plan for the industrialisation and development of Latin America.

## BELGRADE ACCUSES BULGARS

Belgrade, March 30.  
Marshal Tito's Government today accused the Communist regime in neighbouring Bulgaria of instigating repeated attacks on Yugoslav militiamen along the frontier.

Saying that repeated protests had been ignored by Bulgaria, the Government ordered the immediate suspension of the 1948 agreement which permitted violations of either country to escort trains across the frontier.

The official announcement said that, ever since January 16, the Government had been protesting against a series of most brutal violations of frontier traffic, irreconcilable with civilised behaviour in relations between countries.

In order to give the Bulgarians time to reconsider their actions, the Government statement said, Yugoslav militiamen had not been permitted to cross the frontier between March 28 and yesterday.

"However, on March 29, when two of our militiamen again accompanied a train into Bulgaria, they were attacked and beaten until blood ran and were forced to return to the frontier 15 miles away, on foot and under armed escort."

"By this new attack, which occurred despite many warnings on the part of our Government, Yugoslav militiamen will no longer accompany trains across the frontier, while Bulgarian frontier organs will no longer be allowed access to Yugoslav territory, as of March 30."—United Press.

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# BEVIN RUNS GAUNTLET OF EGGS AND TOMATOES

## PORTUGAL DECIDES TO JOIN

Lisbon, March 30. Portugal has accepted the invitation to join the North Atlantic Pact. It was officially announced here tonight.

The Portuguese Foreign Minister, Dr. Jose Caeiro da Mata, today received the British Ambassador, Sir Nigel Roland, and the United States Ambassador, Mr. Lincoln MacVeigh.

The interviews with the earlier announcement that Dr. Mata is flying to Washington at dawn tomorrow, lead observers to conclude that Portugal has decided to join the Alliance.

Dr. Mata is expected to arrive in New York tomorrow to join in the signing of the treaty with the other North Atlantic Pact powers next Monday.

In Madrid, the Spanish Foreign Ministry announced today, for the first time, that Spain and Portugal had been discussing the Atlantic Pact.

The announcement is taken as intended to prepare the people for the news that Portugal is joining the treaty without Spain.

The Foreign Ministry announcement said that in the conversations, it was recognized that the obligations of friendship and non-aggression between Spain and Portugal, contained in the Iberian Pact agreement, continue to prove their efficacy for the defence of their common interests.

It added that the conversations were held at all times within the spirit of friendship which marks the relations between the two countries. Reuter.

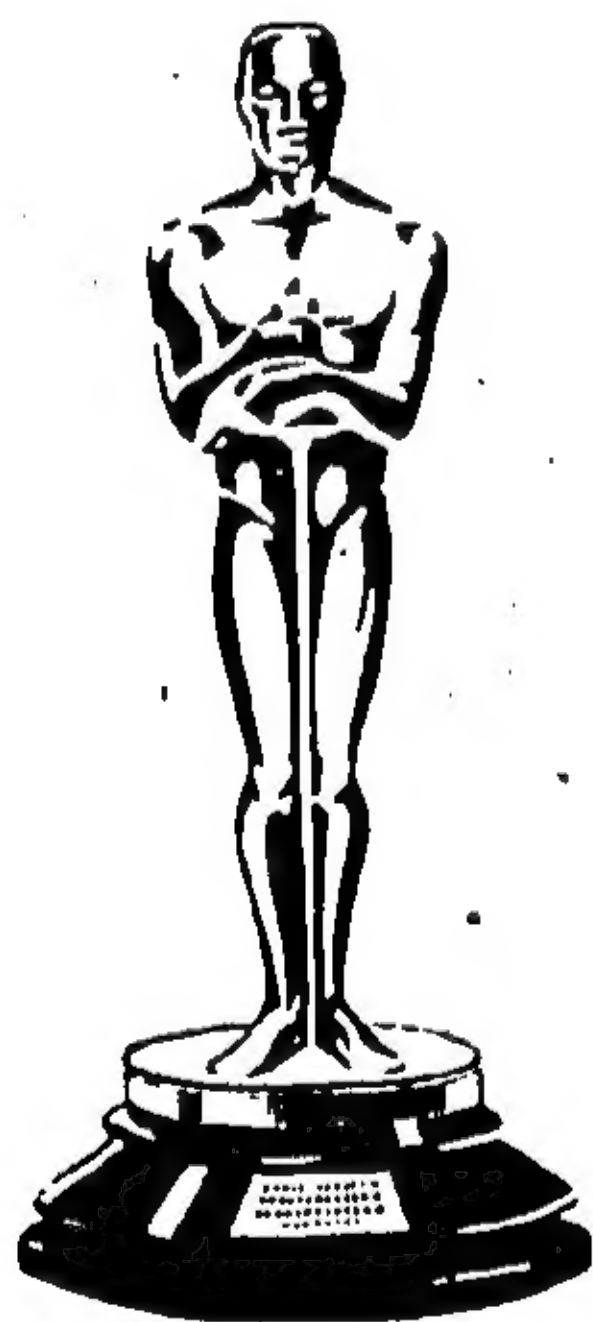
## ANGLO-RUSSIAN TRADE

London, March 30. Questioned in the House of Commons today about trade with Russia, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Christopher Mayhew, said that Britain would take care that her economic policy did not conflict with her obligations.

He rejected a suggestion by Mr. Christopher Hoyle, Conservative, that the Foreign Secretary issue a memorandum on the Atlantic Pact, giving assurance that British trade with Russia would not conflict with her obligations for mutual defence aid. Reuter.

## JANE WYMAN

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**DE WITT'S PILLS**  
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Washington, March 31.

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, having run an egg and tomato barrage in New York, arrived in Washington yesterday to join the Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Acheson, and 10 other Foreign Ministers in signing the North Atlantic Treaty here next Monday.

The pact, he told reporters at Union Station, will mean the creation of real solidarity of the West and will provide the basis for peace for a very long time.

Signing of the treaty by all 12 of the nations considered qualified for membership was assured yesterday morning when Iceland's Parliament approved that country's membership, and the Foreign Office at Lisbon announced definitely that Portugal would join.

Mr. Bevin came to the capital immediately after reaching New York aboard the great liner Queen Mary. More than 500 people gathered near the pier as the big ship tied up alongside. They noisily protested Mr. Bevin's Palestine policies and when finally he left the pier for Pennsylvania Station eggs and tomatoes were hurled from the crowd at his car.

The police here took careful precautions against a repetition of any such incidents. More than a case was on hand when his team arrived and they roared off on an area around his special railway car.

While it is the Atlantic treaty which is bringing the bulk of the 10 Foreign Office Chiefs to Washington, Mr. Acheson made today at a State Department news conference, today that the scope of the work which will be done in an extraordinary series of conferences during the next 10 days is far broader than that.

He told reporters that he would talk with the visiting officials on any subject they want to bring up and listed two groups of problems sure to arise. These are:

1. Tighter co-ordination of the policies of the Western powers, and especially the formation of a Western German Government. In general, the United States and Britain favour giving the German people greater responsibilities for their own affairs and greater opportunity for development of peaceful industry than do the French.

2. Disposition of Italy's colonies. The essential issue here is whether Italy should be permitted to administer some or all the colonies under a United Nations trusteeship arrangement, and if not, who should.

Mr. Acheson also reported steady progress on development of a programme of American arms and to the Atlantic pact and other non-Communist countries. He named Mr. Lloyd V. Berkner as a special assistant to manage the proposed aid, if and when Congress approves the programme—estimated to cost about \$2,000,000,000 the first year. Mr. Berkner, now connected with the Carnegie Institution, was formerly Executive Secretary of the Joint Research and Development Board, a Government agency which promotes scientific developments in the military field.

Mr. Acheson said he would see Mr. Bevin on Thursday and also expects to meet during the day with the Netherlands Foreign Minister, Mr. D. Stikker. Other conferences with representatives of the other pact powers will follow in short order.

The keynote of "peace" through the treaty, which Mr. Bevin sounded both here and in New York, also dominated the comments of other Foreign Ministers who arrived with him aboard the Queen Mary. It remained only for Mr. Andrei Gromyko, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, who arrived on the same ship, to complete the usual pattern of international affairs in this divided world.

While Mr. Bevin, Mr. Stikker, the Belgian Foreign Minister, Mr. Paul Henri Spaak, and Mr. Joseph Bech, Foreign Minister of Luxembourg all talked freely, Mr. Gromyko turned away all questions with his famous "no." He had "no prediction" on what would happen at the United Nations meeting opening in New York on Tuesday—the day after the pact is signed here—and "no comment" on anything else.

Mr. Spaak said he found the Atlantic treaty entirely within the framework of the United Nations.

## Communist Disorders In Iceland

Reykjavik, March 30. Rioting Communists hurled stones through the windows of Parliament today as it voted 37 to 13 for Iceland to join the Atlantic Pact.

Stones bounced across the desks of members of Parliament as the debate neared its climax. Crackers were also fired.

The police charged, with batons, into the crowd outside Parliament, sending the Communists fleeing.—United Press.

## Plans For Council Of Europe

London, March 30. The Legal and Drafting Committee of the Ten-Nation Ambassadors' Conference, which is drafting a constitution for the Council of Europe, held two meetings in London today. It is believed to have worked on the question of the size of national delegations.

It will continue to work tomorrow on the draft constitution, which received a first review by the whole conference in a plenary session on Monday or Tuesday. No further plenary session has been fixed for the present.

Despite pressure from some of the 15 States for an increase in the total size of the proposed Assembly above the figure of 90 proposed by the Permanent Commission, the West Union Powers are believed to have proposed that this shall be the limit.

Reuter's diplomatic correspondent learned from a usually reliable source that Norway and Denmark are pressing for an equalization of the size of the Scandinavian delegations. The proposed totals are six delegates for Sweden and four each for Norway and Denmark. The two latter countries, it is believed, would prefer delegates of five each of the three Scandinavian countries.—Reuter.

## MALAYAN RUBBER FOR RUSSIA

Singapore, March 30. The Russian ship, Dimitry Donskoy, arrived at Penang today to load 1,500 tons of rubber purchased for the Russians under a new contract providing for the inspection of grading by a London firm to wharfters.

The ship is proceeding to other Malayan ports and Singapore to load more rubber this week.—Associated Press.

## Appeal To Help Overthrow Franco

London, March 30.

All Spanish underground political movements, other than the Communists, have joined forces and have appealed for world-wide help in a campaign to overthrow the Franco regime, according to reports reaching London.

A joint manifesto, issued by the underground Union General de Trabajadores (Socialist) and the clandestine Confederation General del Trabajo (Anarchist), is addressed to the workers of all countries, except Russia.

Its signatories specially exclude the Communists and claim to represent all "non-totalitarian" Spanish workers. Their manifesto complains of the lack of positive help from outside, and asks for aid from the French and Italian Trade Union Federations, the British Trades Union Congress, members of the American Congress of Industrial Organizations and the American Federation of Labour.

The manifesto appeals to workers to press their Governments to raise the issue of the Franco regime at the United Nations General Assembly next month.

"Four years have elapsed since the Allied victory and the last vestige of Nazism and Fascism still exists in Spain. There is no justification for your passive attitude.

"We are anti-totalitarian by conviction and are therefore the enemies of dictatorship. That is why we have joined forces with the other opponents of Franco.

"Diplomats may postpone the solution of our problem, but we cannot accept any procrastination on the part of workers' organisations throughout the world."

Reuter.

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## MURDER TRIAL VERDICT TODAY

Asserting that the deceased was a kind man who loved everybody, Wong Fuk-lam, the accused in the Lantao Murder trial, yesterday denied having made any confession to anyone at any time about killing his foster father.

The verdict of the trial is to be returned by the jury of six men and one woman some time today, following the summing up by Mr. Justice Williams, Puisne Judge.

The 23-year-old youth is charged with the alleged murder of Wong Yau, his foster father, on or about August 27 last year on Lantao Island, with the intention of making off with the latter's concubine, 20-year-old Li Kan-mui.

Conducting the case for the prosecution is Mr. M. Heenan, Crown Counsel, assisted by Mr. C. Mottram, Assistant Director of Criminal Investigation, and Detective Inspector C. Askew.

Mr. Y. H. Poon, instructed by Mr. F. D. Hammond, is defending Wong.

When the court assembled yesterday, further evidence for the prosecution was taken, after which the accused went into the witness stand to testify in his own defence.

Asked about his relations with his foster-father Wong asserted that they were very good. He was also on very good terms with the other members of the deceased's family.

Turning to the events on the night of August 26, accused related how, at about 11 o'clock or 12 midnight, he happened to leave the cow-shed where he slept, and how on doing so, he encountered Li, the concubine, outside.

She was carrying a rope in her hand. On being asked what was the matter, Li replied that she was intending to commit suicide, because she had been assaulted by her husband.

## Pushed Her Back

Wong said he advised Li against such a thing, and pushed her back to her hut. He then went back to his shed to sleep.

Accused denied that he told Li to run away, or anything in the same effect.

At dawn of the next day, Wong continued, he was awakened by his father, who told him that Li had disappeared from her hut. His father asked him to go to Sha Lo Wan with him to look for her, which he did.

Accused went on to state that both of them went to Li Shik-kang's, an acquaintance's place, at Sha Lo Wan, and eventually to the house of the concubine's brothers. A discussion was then held between the four regarding the matter.

Replying to questions, accused denied having told Li to go to Hong Kong and await him there. Seeing that it was futile to talk any more, Wong declared, he went to Tai O and told his father he had seen his concubine.

Further questioned, accused denied that when he arrived home, his foster mother asked why he looked so pale, nor did he ever tell her that he had killed his father that morning.

The last time he had ever seen his father, accused disclosed, was on the night of August 26.

After further evidence was given, Wong was cross-examined by Mr. Heenan, in the course of which he revealed that he had seen Li Kan-mui being beaten by her husband, the deceased. She herself did not tell him about it.

Further questioned, accused told the court that the concubine had never on any occasion to call him up early in the morning to begin work. He admitted that she was always the first to get up in the morning. The first thing she did every morning, he added, was to burn some joss-sticks in the cow-shed.

Crown Counsel then asked accused whether he was very friendly with Li and whether he associated with her very much. Wong denied this, stating that he only worked with her, together with others.

Asked if he knew if Li and Wong Yau had been on good terms for a month or two before

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## CHARGES AGAINST U.S. GENERAL IN LONDON

Frankfurt, March 30. Charges have been preferred against Major-General Clayton Bissell, former Military and Air Attache at the U.S. Embassy in London. The charges are being investigated to determine whether they warrant trial by court martial, headquarters of the U.S. Air Force in Europe announced today.

The announcement said that the charges concern acts allegedly committed while he was Military and Air Attache at the U.S. Embassy in London from May, 1946, to July, 1948.

It did not explain what the charges are, and officials in Frankfurt declined to say.

Officials would not say what article of war the General is accused of violating.

General Bissell arrived in Germany yesterday.

The investigation of the charges against him is being made by Major General Edwin B. Lyon, the U.S. Air Force announced.

### No Comment

During the investigation, General Bissell is represented by a special counsel, John E. Hughes.

General Bissell meanwhile is staying at the Rose Hotel in Wiesbaden, an Air Force requisitioned hotel for generals, colonels and high ranking officers.

Reached by phone in his room, General Bissell said:

"I have no comment on the Air Force announcement. The fact that there is an investigation has been previously published. The investigation is continuing. That is the situation."

General Bissell said he arrived at Bremen yesterday from the United States.

### Anonymous Letter

In Washington, a spokesman said that the Air Force started an investigation of General Bissell last August after receiving an anonymous letter charging him with black market operations in London.

The filing of the official charges against General Bissell is up to the European commander because the alleged offences occurred in his command.—Associated Press and United Press.

## NEW LABOUR ORGANISATION

New York, March 30. American and British labour leaders will meet in Washington on April 7 to form an International Organisation of Labour in non-Communist nations.

Senior officials of the American Federation of Labour, the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the British Trades Unions Congress will attend the meeting, James Carey, secretary-treasurer of the CIO, announced.

Mr. Carey said the new international organization would be designed to replace the World Federation of Trade Unions, from which the CIO and TUC have withdrawn.—United Press.

## UN LOSING ITS CHARACTER, SAYS RUSSIAN WRITER

Moscow, March 30. The magazine "New Times" said today that the United Nations is losing its character as an important international organisation because the Anglo-Americans are undermining it.

The writer, V. Tatarinov, describing his impressions of Lake Success, alleged that the Anglo-Americans dominated the United Nations Secretariat and used it as a base for anti-Soviet propaganda.

He claimed that even the United Nations Library ignored important Soviet writers while prominently displaying the works of anti-Soviet slanders and writers.

He added that hundreds of Soviet documents against war-mongering and Fascist terror were buried in the files at Lake Success while the Secretariat filled its daily bulletin with propaganda.

## Colonial Officials To Take Course

London, March 30. Labour officers from 18 colonies will begin a three-month course in industrial relations here on April 26. The officers will include Europeans and local inhabitants, and they will come from Singapore, Malaya, Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, British Guiana, Windward Islands, Leeward Islands, Cyprus and Mauritius.

They will study conciliation and arbitration methods, joint industrial and wage councils, factory inspection and employment exchange services.—Reuter.

## HONARARY KBE FOR FAIRBANKS

Hollywood, March 30. Douglas Fairbanks, Junior, today expressed profound gratitude for his appointment as Honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

The honour was announced by the British Consulate here last night.—Reuter.

## BIG GRANTS TO BE ASKED FOR MALAYA

London, March 30. The British Government will shortly seek authority for £5,000,000 for the Federation of Malaya, the Colonial Under-Secretary, Mr. David Rees Williams, announced in the House of Commons today.

He said the Government had been considering the difficulties of the Federation and the money would be for meeting expenditure incurred by the Federation in maintaining internal security in 1949.

"We shall also ask for £1,000,000 in respect of the expenses of the Imperial forces in 1948 and 1949," Mr. Rees Williams added.

He said that further help may be necessary in 1950, and in the event of a material change the matter will be reviewed in the light of the position as it emerges.

Mr. Rees Williams said: "His Majesty's Government has been in full consultation with the High Commissioner, and it is understood that further help may be necessary in 1950."

He continued: "A Bill to authorise the raising of \$100 million has been introduced in the Legislative Council of the Federation and will be considered tomorrow. A proportion of the loan, with the British Government's consent, will be raised in London."

### Much Feeling

Mr. Rees Williams was replying to a question by Mr. Leonard Gammans, Conservative, who asked if he would make a statement on the application by the Government of the Federation of Malaya for permission to raise a loan or by other means to obtain financial assistance to meet the abnormal circumstances in the country.

After the Minister's statement, Mr. Gammans further asked: "Does he realise that there is much feeling about this in Malaya—about the fact that we made a free gift of £20 million to Burma, which has gone out of the Commonwealth?"

"Does he realise that this is naturally resented by a country which provides us with more American dollars than the total exports of the United Kingdom?" Mr. Rees Williams did not reply.

Mr. Rees Williams, replying to

## FRENCH REPULSE INVADERS

Salon, March 31. Fighting continued yesterday at Monca, near the Chinese border, where the French forces are repelling an attack by bands of Chinese Communists, press reports said.

An Agence France Presse report from Hanoi said the main force of attackers had been repulsed and was fleeing back across the border into China. The French news agency said a few isolated bands had been surrounded and were being wiped out.

Government sources placed the enemy dead at 60 and said all French civilians were safe except M. Lefevre, Provincial Counsellor, who was wounded.

Local estimates placed Government losses at about 30 but the Government would not confirm this figure.

The Prime Minister of Central Vietnam, General Nguyen Van Kuan, told Reuter today that he thought the fighting on the Tonkin-Chinese border would act as a red light to these Vietnam troops fighting for Ho Chi-minh, the extremist autonomy leader.

"These incidents should re-awaken the Vietnamese conscience," he said.

"I think the Nationalists fighting with Ho Chi-minh will understand the danger implicit in these incidents."

"If adherence to the French Union brings with it some restrictions to national sovereignty, they are as nothing beside the danger of our neighbours, who have been won over to totalitarianism."—Associated Press and Reuter.

tion that he had represented to the Secretary of State the necessity for a substantial contribution from the British Government towards the cost of the security and defence requirements in Malaya and whether he is in a position to make a statement on the subject.—Reuter.

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### RIP KIRBY

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AH, WELL... A PRETTY FACE IN A BLUEBLOOD TO BOOT!  
VERY GOOD, GIRL!  
FORGIVE ME, DEB... I'M RIBBING YOU! THE VERY IMPORTANT PASSENGER MENTIONED IN THE CABLE IS THE LADY WHO JUST LEFT WASHINGTON SUSPECTS MRS. VAN DOON OF SWINDLING THE SANDAR RUBIES!

**By ALEX RAYMOND**

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**JANE**  
THERE HE GOES! THANK GOODNESS HE'S TOO FAT TO WALK FAST!  
STEADY, FRITZ!—THIS IS THE SORT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WHERE EVERY DUTIFUL NIGHT CONTAIN A BODY!  
HE'S GONE IN—AND LEFT THE DOOR OPEN!—IT'S TOO GOOD A CHANCE TO MISS!—GEORGE WILL BE SURPRISED IF I FIND THE MAN BEHIND FORELOCK BEFORE HE GETS HERE...

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## SAILINGS TO

"PRODUCE"	Amoy, Shanghai, Yokohama & Kobe	5 p.m. 1st Apr.
"HUPEI"	Yokohama & Kobe	4 p.m. 2nd Apr.
"TSINAN"	Swatow	10 a.m. 3rd Apr.
"KWEIYANG"	Swatow, Amoy & Fuzhou	4 p.m. 4th Apr.
"FOYANG"	Swatow & Bangkok	5 p.m. 6th Apr.
"TSINAN"	Swatow	4 p.m. 7th Apr.
"SHENGKING"	Shanghai	4 p.m. 8th Apr.
"PAKHUI"	Singapore	4 p.m. 9th Apr.
"FUKIEN"	Singapore, Batavia, Cherbon, Sourabaya & Macassar	12th Apr.

\* Sails from Custodian Wharf

## ARRIVALS FROM

"HUPEI"	Swatow	9 a.m. 1st Apr.
"TSINAN"	Borneo, Amoy & Fuzhou	1/2nd Apr.
"KWEIYANG"	Singapore, Saigon & Hanoi	3/4th Apr.
"FOYANG"	Shanghai	4th Apr.
"TSINAN"	Kobe & Keelung	5th Apr.
"NEWCHUANG"	Swatow & Amoy	6th Apr.
"PAKHUI"	Shanghai & Keelung	8th Apr.
"FUKIEN"	Kobe	9/10th Apr.
"TSINAN"	Tientsin & Incheon	9/10th Apr.

## RIVER SERVICE

"FATSIAN"	Hongkong/Canton	Canton/Hongkong
	10 p.m. 1st April	11 a.m. 2nd April
	Midnight 4th April	7.30 a.m. 7th April
"WUSUEH"	HK/MACAO	MACAO/HK
	10 p.m. 2nd April	8.30 a.m. 3rd April
	8.30 a.m. 4th April	4th 5th 6th
	6th 7th & 8th April	7th & 8th April

## Agents: BLUE FUNNEL LINE

### SCHEDULE SAILINGS TO LIVERPOOL via Aden & Port Said.

"CLYTONES"	via Tanciger, Casablanca & Havre	8th Apr.
"EUMAREUS"	via Mauritius	12th Apr.
"ASTYANAX"	via Genoa, Marseilles & Glasgow	24th Apr.

## Arrivals from

"TITAN"	U.K. via Straits	In port 3rd Apr.
"ASTYANAX"	U.K. via Straits	9th Apr.
"TYNDAROS"	U.K. via Straits & Manila	9th Apr.
"EUMAREUS"	U.K. via Straits	14th Apr.
"CALCHAS"	U.K. via Straits	20th Apr.
"STENTOR"	U.K. via Straits & Manila	25th Apr.
"ANTENOR"	U.K. via Straits & Manila	25th Apr.

## NEW YORK SERVICE

"AGAMENNON"	from U.S.A. via Manila	23rd Apr.
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Agents: Australian-Oriental Line, Ltd.

## Sailings to

"CHANGTE"	Kure & Yokohama	23rd Apr.
"SHANSI"	Singapore, Brisbane, Sydney & Melbourne	28th Apr.

## Arrivals from

"CHANGTE"	Australia	19th Apr.
"SHANSI"	Australia & Manila	21st Apr.

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10 p.m.	5/4/1949
10 p.m.	7/4/1949

#### CANTON DEPARTURE:

9 p.m.	2/4/1949
9 p.m.	4/4/1949
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# Burma Conditions Not So Bad, Says Rangoon Official

Conditions in Burma today, though not normal, still are not as bad as depicted by some correspondents.

Mr. U Tin, Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Thakin Nu of Burma, who passed through Hong Kong yesterday on his way to the UN Assembly at Lake Success, described Burma's present difficulties as a legacy of the war with Japan.

"There was bound to be some sort of trouble," he told the press.  
Mr. U Tin said that certain individuals lacking in foresight—some of them British—were partly responsible for the trouble in Burma today, but he emphasised that it was individuals who were responsible rather than any Government.

"It would be very wrong to say that the British Government was ineffectual," he declared.  
Of the 1,000,000 Karens in Burma, Mr. U Tin estimated that about 10 per cent were fighting against the Government. This 10 per cent has allied itself with the Communist element in Burma.

A compromise between democracy as known to the West and Communism was best suited to the new Republic, he said.

Mr. U Tin expressed doubt that pure Communism would ever find a large following in his country.

## General Pattern

"The trouble is not confined to Burma alone," the Parliamentary Secretary continued, describing it as part of the

pattern of events all throughout the South East Asia area. Burma is in a position today where she must move carefully. It is to her advantage to avoid political friction; therefore she is doing business and cultivating friendship with all.

"One thing I can tell you—whatever the trouble in the country may be, we are very confident that in the present emergency we can quell it within a reasonable time," he declared. Only present Government could keep Burma friendly to the democracies, he added.

Referring to old-time Burmese leaders, Mr. U Tin commented: "I have nothing against them as individuals, but they cannot run the show today."

On the subject of Burma's economy, the Parliamentary Secretary had this to say: "Whatever conditions may be, we will never starve. We can produce enough for our own consumption. However, we want to produce more and contribute toward the solution of the food problem of the world."

## Help Welcome

Because Burma was wealthy in rice, Mr. U Tin said, he felt confident that friendly nations such as the United Kingdom, India and Pakistan would want to see the trouble solved within her borders. (The fighting in the country has disrupted production.)

He said that Burma already had asked for a loan, which she felt confident would be forthcoming soon. Burma also needs arms and ammunition.

"Friendly assistance from any country is welcome," said Mr. U Tin, "if the terms are fair." The fighting in Burma was not a racial clash, the Parliamentary Secretary said, and except for the insurgent Karens and their Communist allies, the people of the country—including minority groups such as the Shans, Chins, Kachins and Karenis—were all solidly behind the Government of Burma.

If, however, it was decided that sentiment among the Karens for a separate state in the North was really strong, the Burmese Government would willingly hold a plebiscite to decide the issue. A committee has been delegated to investigate the matter and make recommendations to the Government.

Asked to comment on Burma's attitude toward any possible Pacific Pact, Mr. U Tin replied that his country would probably join, unless it proved detrimental to her interests.

Mr. Richardson, who has carried out the duties of Honorary Secretary for the past 20 years, was accorded the thanks of the Branch for his interest in, and services to the Institution in Hong Kong.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Mr. J. Ring for his work as Chairman for some 10 years, and for his hospitality during the evening.

## HK-SHANGHAI PHONE OPENED

A 10-minute exchange of greetings between the Governor of Hong Kong and the Mayor of Shanghai yesterday morning officially opened the Hong Kong-Shanghai Radio-Telephone Service.

Sir Alexander Grantham spoke to Mr. K.C. Wu from Government House. The conversation was relayed over the telephone line to the Cable and Wireless office for transmission by radio to Shanghai.

The service will be open to the public at HK\$21 for a minimum three-minute call from 8 a.m. today.

## NEW DUTY

The duty on table waters was increased to 48 cents a gallon by a resolution passed by Legislative Council yesterday.

The increase became effective from midnight yesterday.

## SAR-KIL RAT BAIT

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A giant and five midgits who comprise the Freak Show at the Ritz, North Point.—("China Mail" photo).

## Britons Decorated By China

The Chinese Ambassador in London, Dr. Cheng Tien-hai, recently presented a number of decorations conferred by the Chinese Government in recognition of services rendered to China during the second world war.

The decorations were: Mr. Leonard F. Behren, Brilliant Star with Ribbon; Sir Ernest Burdon, Brilliant Star with Ribbon; Sir Philip Chatterton, KBE, CBE, DSO, MC, Cloud Banner with Grand Cordons; Sir Frank Gill, KBE, OBE, Brilliant Star with Special Rosette; Captain Sir Henry James Scrymgeour-Wedderburn, JP, DL, Brilliant Star with Special Rosette; General Sir Arthur Cravat; General Sir Philip Chatterton, KBE, CBE, DSO, MC, Cloud Banner with Grand Cordons; Sir Frank Gill, KBE, OBE, Brilliant Star with Special Rosette; Captain Sir Henry James Scrymgeour-Wedderburn, JP, DL, Brilliant Star with Special Rosette; General Sir Arthur Cravat; General Sir Philip Chatterton, KBE, CBE, DSO, MC, Cloud Banner with Grand Cordons; Sir Frank Gill, KBE, OBE, Brilliant Star with Special Rosette; Captain Sir Henry James Scrymgeour-Wedderburn, JP, DL, Brilliant Star with Special Rosette; General Sir Arthur Cravat; General Sir Philip Chatterton, KBE, CBE, DSO, MC, Cloud Banner with Grand Cordons; Sir Frank Gill, KBE, OBE, Brilliant Star with Special Rosette; 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# ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINES

**JAVA-CHINA SERVICE**

"TIBADAK" from Macassar to Shanghai 2nd April  
to Javaports 14th April  
to Macassar 28th April

"TITJALENGKA" from Macassar to Shanghai 14th April  
to Javaports 28th April  
to Macassar 12th May

"TISADANE" from Macassar to Shanghai 28th April  
to Javaports 12th May  
to Macassar 26th May

**HONGKONG-MANILA-CHINA SERVICE**

"TASMAN" from Manila to Hong Kong 7th April  
to Amoy 20th April

**SUMATRA-MALAYA-CHINA SERVICE**

Arrivals: from Amoy & Swatow 2nd April  
from B. Doll & Straits 8th April

Sailings: to Straits & B. Doll 2nd April  
to B. Doll & Straits 17th April

**ASIA-AFRICA-S. AMERICA SERVICE**

Arrivals: from Japan 21st May

Sailings: to East & South Africa & South America, 2nd April  
to East & South Africa & South America, 24th May

STRAAT MALAKKA in port

to East & South Africa & South America, 2nd April

"MOISSEVAI" from South America & South Africa, 9th April

to East & South Africa & South America, 30th April

STRAAT SOENDA from Japan 21st May

to East & South Africa & South America, 24th May

TEGELBERG from South America & South Africa, 20th June

to East & South Africa & South America, 22nd June

All Steamers Calling Mombasa & L. Marques Direct.

Transshipment cargo on through B/L to Dar-Es-Salaam.

Zanzibar accepted on all sailings.

**Agents: HOLLAND-EAST ASIA LINE**

Arrivals: from Europe 8th April

Sailings: to Europe via Manila & Straits 2nd April

"MELISKERK" in port

to Europe via Manila & Straits 2nd April

"MARIEKERK" from Europe 8th April

to Europe via Manila & Straits 2nd April

"MOLENKERK" from Europe Early May

to Europe via Manila & Straits 2nd April

"MEERKERK" from Europe early June

to Europe via Manila & Straits 2nd April

Transshipment cargo on through B/L accepted to Indian, Mediterranean and Northern European ports.

Office Address: King's Building, Phones: 28015, 28016 & 28017

Chinese Agents: 82, Connaught Rd., Tel. 31196 & 21533

## DE LA RAMA LINES

ARRIVING FROM U.S. ATLANTIC COAST VIA LOS ANGELES & SAN FRANCISCO

S.S. "DONA AURORA" 19th Apr.

S.S. "BENARES" 28th Apr.

SAILING FOR U.S. ATLANTIC COAST VIA LOS ANGELES

S.S. "BENARES" 30th Apr.

S.S. "DONA AURORA" (calls Shanghai & Japan) 19th May

THE DE LA RAMA STEAMSHIP CO., INC.

(Incorporated in the Philippines)

MARINA HOUSE CHINESE SHIPPING OFFICE

Tels. 23670-23675 Tels. 23738-20153

## KLAVENESS LINE

Direct to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Vancouver, Seattle & Portland

M.S. "BOUGAINVILLE" Loading 30th April

Arrives Los Angeles 16th May

ARRIVALS FROM PACIFIC COAST

M.S. "SUNNYVILLE" 21st April

Sailing to Singapore, Port Swettenham, Penang & Batavia

M.S. "SUNNYVILLE" 22nd April

Passenger Accommodation Bulk Oil Tanks Apply

Chinese Freight Agents THE BANK LINE (CHINA) LTD.

HOO FOK PING THE BANK LINE (CHINA) LTD.

King's Building, Tel. 27792 THE BANK LINE (China) Ltd.

## CHINA MERCHANTS S.N. CO.

15, Connaught Road, West. Telephone 31633.

SAILINGS

S.S. HAI TIEN Shanghai April 3

S.S. HAI TAI Haiphong & Hankow April 3

S.S. HAI LIH Singapore Penang & Rangoon April 5

(With Passenger Accommodation)

Cargo for Teluk, Hong Kong & Nientsin acceptable on through bills of lading.

For Full Particulars Please Apply to the Above

## Hong Kong Stock Exchange

The activity of the past two days has been down.

B.K. GOVT. BONDS:

4% Loan 102 1/2

5% Loan 103 1/2 (1944) 102 1/2

5% Loan 104 1/2 (1945) 103 1/2

BANKS:

M. & S. Bank 170 1/2

Chartered Bank 100 1/2

Mercantile Bank A. & M. 42 1/2

Bank of East Asia 134 1/2, 135 1/2, 137 1/2

INSURANCE:

Canton Ins. 170 1/2

Union Ins. 71 1/2

China Underwriters 60 1/2

H.K. Fire Ins. 26 1/2

SHIPPING:

H.K. & M. Steamships 17 1/2

Indo China (P&O) 25 1/2

(Def.) 25 1/2

Shanghai Deepwater 23 1/2

Union Waterfronts 32 1/2

ASIA NAV. 30 1/2

DOCK, WHARVES, GODOWNS, ETC.:

H.K. & M. Wharves (1911) 118 1/2, 122 1/2

North Point Wharves 6 1/2

Shanghai Hongkong Wharves 18 1/2

H.K. Docks 23 1/2

China Docklands 18 1/2

Shanghai Docklands 23 1/2, 24 1/2, 25 1/2

Wharves 35 1/2

MINING:

Huashan Mines 4 1/2

H.K. Mines 10 1/2

LAND, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS:

H. & S. Hotel 12 1/2

H.K. Lands 55 1/2, 56 1/2, 57 1/2, 58 1/2, 59 1/2, 60 1/2

Shanghai Lands 23 1/2, 24 1/2, 25 1/2, 26 1/2, 27 1/2, 28 1/2, 29 1/2, 30 1/2

H.K. Realities 26 1/2

Chinese Realities 17 1/2

H.K. Tramways 18 1/2, 19 1/2, 20 1/2

Public Utilities:

H.K. Tramways 18 1/2, 19 1/2, 20 1/2

Public Utilities:

Peak Tram (Ord.) 2 1/2

(New) 1 1/2

Star Ferry 12 1/2

C. Light (Ord.) 12 1/2, 13 1/2, 14 1/2, 15 1/2, 16 1/2, 17 1/2, 18 1/2, 19 1/2, 20 1/2

H.K. Electric 33 1/2, 34 1/2, 35 1/2, 36 1/2, 37 1/2, 38 1/2, 39 1/2, 40 1/2

Macao Electric 27 1/2

Sandakan Lights 13 1/2

Telephones 28 1/2

Shanghai Gas Co. 10 1/2

INDUSTRIALS:

Cald. Macao (Ord.) 28 1/2

Canton Ind. 7 1/2

Concrete 30 1/2, 31 1/2, 32 1/2, 33 1/2, 34 1/2, 35 1/2, 36 1/2, 37 1/2, 38 1/2, 39 1/2, 40 1/2

H.K. Paper (X.D.) 17 1/2

NTOREN, Etc.:

Dairy Farms (Ord.) 8 1/2

(New) 2 1/2

Watsons 47 1/2, 48 1/2, 49 1/2, 50 1/2, 51 1/2, 52 1/2, 53 1/2, 54 1/2, 55 1/2, 56 1/2, 57 1/2, 58 1/2, 59 1/2, 60 1/2

L. Crawford (Ord.) 26 1/2

(New) 23 1/2

Shanghai Ind. 11 1/2

China Emulsion 11 1/2

Ban Co. Ltd. 3 1/2

Kwong Sang Hong 12 1/2

Wing On (H.K.) 10 1/2

Wing On (S.H.) 11 1/2

MISCELLANEOUS:

China Enterprises 43 1/2

H.K. Constructions (Ord.) 8 1/2

(New) 4 1/2

Vibrio Pills 16 1/2

Marsman Investments 9 1/2

Marsman (H.K.) 2 1/2

Shanghai Ind. 11 1/2

Yantai 4 1/2

COTTONS:

Rubber, Etc., COMPANIES:

Latex 1 1/2

Latex 2 1/2

Latex 3 1/2

Latex 4 1/2

Latex 5 1/2

Latex 6 1/2

Latex 7 1/2

Latex 8 1/2

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## SAN MIGUEL BREWERY OPERATIONS IN HK

Some HK\$45,000 has been spent by San Miguel Brewery, Inc., Manila, in Hong Kong on capital expenditures for new equipment and rehabilitation work, according to the annual report of the company, which also owns the Hong Kong Brewery in the New Territories.

The report said that development in nearly every division of the company, featured by an increased demand for all its products, was recorded during the year.

The report stated that the Hong Kong subsidiary was incorporated in February last, with an authorized capital of \$1,000,000, totally owned by the parent company.

Shortly after the Hong Kong Brewery was turned over to San Miguel, substantial renovations were started.

Machinery and equipment underwent complete overhauling, and the capacity of the fermenting section was increased by the erection of new tanks. A cellar for finished beer was made and provided with 13 tanks of 10,000 litres each.

Installation of a new beer filter, cooler, filter-mixer washer and a new bottling line were completed during 1948, bringing the capacity to 1,000 cases for eight hours. The laboratory was fitted with modern equipment.

Excellent brewing water is assured, added the report, by a new water dam of 1,000,000 gallon capacity which is nearing completion and by a projected filter and treating plant with a capacity of 6,000 gallons of crystal-clear water an hour.

Capital expenditures for new equipment and rehabilitation in Hong Kong amounted to HK\$45,000.

San Miguel Pale Pilsen was introduced into the Hong Kong market on May 21, 1948, and was well received from the start, continued the report. Export of the product was restricted due to the shipping strike on the Pacific Coast and subsequent shortage of vessels.

However, shipments had been made to Okinawa and Guam in January, 1949, and connections with Rabaul and Lae had been established.

The ice plant in Hong Kong had been selling its capacity of 16 tons a day, except during the winter months, and the distillery had operated on a restricted scale.

After listing the extensive expansion projects in the Philippines, the report disclosed that investments in land, buildings, equipment and machinery amounted to P21,987,412 on December 31, 1948. Construction in progress amounted to P3,500,000, bringing the total assets to P25,487,412, an increase of P7,600,013 during the year.

It also recorded the company's expansion programmes reached its peak in 1948 while business reached a new record. Net sales totalled P57,004,889, an increase of P17,310,410 over the previous year. Net earnings amounted to P12,159,888 against P9,725,872 in 1947.

Of these earnings, P3,296,080 was distributed in cash dividends and P8,763,828 was re-invested in the company's business. Earnings a share of common stock were P9.30 and cash dividends a share of common stock were P2.04, compared with P7.53 and P1.92 for 1947.

The company's net worth at the end of last year was P20,565,109, an increase of 50 per cent over 1947 and 173 per cent over 1940.

A new Buick parked on Nathan Road near the Majestic Theatre, yesterday, slid from its parking space in the middle of the road on to the pavement in front of the Mel La Beauty Parlour.

No one was injured and the only damage was a scratch on the car's right mud-guard.

Police said that car slid as its driver had forgotten to apply parking brakes when he left the car.

Port Health Clinics. The clinics issue certificates for persons leaving the Colony at a charge of 30 cents a certificate.

## Robber Gets Long Sentence

Seven years' hard labour and 10 strokes of the cane was the sentence imposed on Cheung Kwai-sang by Mr. Justice Reynolds. Additional Judge, at the Criminal Sessions yesterday, for his part in an armed robbery at the Yue On Hop import and export firm on January 6.

Cheung Ping-lan, who was charged with receiving stolen property, the proceeds of said robbery, was given two years.

The jury of three men and four women however recommended leniency on the second accused, considering him as having been led by bad companions. They returned the verdict after a half-hour deliberation.

Cheung was found guilty of taking part in the robbery, which netted a large quantity of money, watches and other articles. He was not legally represented.

Having previously pleaded guilty to possession of arms and ammunition he was sentenced to three years' hard labour, to be served concurrently.

Second accused was defended by Mr. V.J.L. Dalton instructed by Mr. C. A. S. Russ.

## Landlords Warned

Landlords were officially warned yesterday that they are obliged by law to prevent re-occupation of their war-damaged property by squatters.

If property owners fail to adopt the necessary precautions in a period specified by the Deputy Director of Health Services, the work will be carried out by the Public Works Department at the cost of the property owners.

Failure to comply with the regulations will also make property owners liable to imprisonment for one year and a fine of HK\$5,000 if found guilty.

An official statement added that the co-operation of all owners of property with the Government authorities in preventing illegal occupation of their property is earnestly solicited.

Owners of war-damaged property in particular are requested to rehabilitate such property at the earliest opportunity, as much in the interests of relieving the housing shortage as to prevent illegal occupation of such damaged property.

It is an offence under the Building Ordinance for any person to permit unauthorised alteration to their property or the erection of unauthorised structures on their property.

Money Market

Gold open at HK\$312.75 a tael, up 1/2 to 313.75, and closed at 312.75 to 313.75.

US dollars moved from HK\$3.24 to 3.25.

Gold Yuan was booked at HK\$4 and \$4.20 for 10,000 for Hong Kong delivery. \$3.05 and \$3.15 for Canton remittances, and \$2.95 and \$3.05 for Shanghai remittances.

Platinum fell to HK\$9.05 a 100 after opening at HK\$9.05.

Teals were easier at HK\$24.

Mei Guilders were stationary at HK\$10.35 as were Australian pounds at HK\$12.75.

## New York Stock Exchange

New York, March 31.

Nearly 2,000,000 shares of stock sold in the New York stock exchange yesterday, but the price level barely budged; 645 issues advanced and 234 declined, but the changes either way ranged from fractions to only a point or so.

Trading slowed considerably after a brisk opening and price-tended downward in the last hour, however, demand revived many issues hit new tops for the year or longer. Transfers totalled 1,850,000 shares.

Among gainers were Hudson Motors, Douglas Aircraft, Pepsi-Cola, Consolidated Edison, Corde de Penco, Santa Fe, American Airlines and Sinclair Oil.

Stumblers included Consolidated National Gas, Commonwealth and Southern.

DOV JONES AVERAGE:

Stocks: 64.42

80 Industrials: 178.45

15 Rails: 49.60

10 Utilities: 35.51

CLOSING QUOTATIONS:

Alcoa Common: 19 1/2

Alcoa Preferred: 24

American Can: 31 1/2

American Smelting: 40 1/2

American Telephone: 140 1/2

American Tobacco: 67 1/2

American Waterworks: 8 1/2

Anacosta Copper: 32 1/2

Aviation Corporation: 45 1/2

Baldwin Locomotive: 12 1/2

Barnhill: 44 1/2

Beck's Aviation: 24 1/2

Bethlehem Steel: 32 1/2

Boeing Aircraft: 25 1/2

Borden: 30 1/2

Canadian Pacific: 12 1/2

J. I. Case: 35 1/2

Chrysler: 35 1/2

Colgate: 33 1/2

Commercial Solvents: 17 1/2

Corn Products: 62 1/2

Du Pont: 188 1/2

Eastman Kodak: 47 1/2

Electric Light & Power: 23 1/2

General Electric: 38 1/2

General Motors: 50

Goodrich: 62 1/2

Goodyear: 44 1/2

Homestead Mining: 39

International Harvester: 24 1/2

Montgomery Ward: 58 1/2

National Distillers: 19 1/2

National Lead: 29 1/2

New York Central: 12 1/2

Packaging: 10 1/2

Pan American Airways: 10 1/2

Pennsylvania RR: 18 1/2

Radio Corporation: 16 1/2

Real Estate: 12 1/2

Republic Steel: 24 1/2

Rockwell: 34 1/2

Sealed Air: 31 1/2

Sealed Air: 31 1/2

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## AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES

Cargo Oil Tanks Refrigeration-Cargolair

## S.S. PRESIDENT CLEVELAND

Sails for SAN FRANCISCO

via Shanghai, Kobe, Yokohama and Honolulu

Sunday, April 3rd at 5.00 P.M.

HONG KONG SUMMER TIME

Boarding time: 2.00 to 4.00 P.M. H.K.S.T.

on Sunday, April 3rd

Baggage

Baggage for the hold and baggage room must be delivered not later than 5.00 P.M. H.K.S.T. April 1st at Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Company's Godown No. 50, Gate No. 2, Canton Road, Kowloon.

Cabin baggage should be delivered to the same godown and claimed by passengers before boarding.

All baggage will be delivered to the ship by the Wharf Company porters.

St. George's Hotel. Tel. Nos 28172/28173

## American Pioneer Line

Arrivals from New York, Boston, Other Atlantic Ports via Panama

"PIONEER BAY" Apr. 21

"PIONEER MAIL" Apr. 23

"PIONEER DALE" May 18

Sailings to Manila

"PIONEER BAY" (Thence to New York Direct) Apr. 23

"PIONEER MAIL" Apr. 24

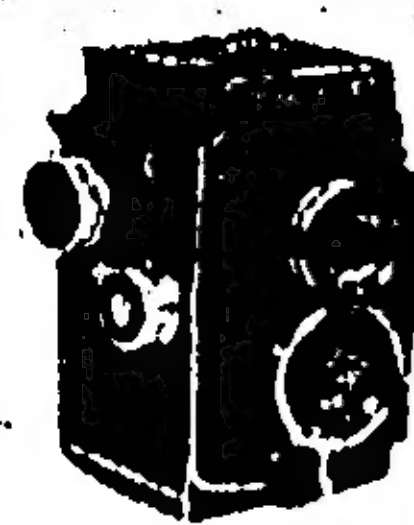
"PIONEER DALE" May 19

Sailings to New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore & Other Atlantic Ports via Shanghai, Japan & Panama Canal









Get One Today—  
**ELMOFLEX**  
CAMERAS  
With a Self-Timer, Auto-Film-Counter and F3.5 Lens.  
Reliable & Economical.

# CHINA MAIL

HONG KONG, FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1949.

Drink...

South China Tea Corp., Ltd.  
55, Connaught Rd., C.  
1st & 2nd Flrs. Tel: 21387.



## ROBERT TAY IN ALL THREE BADMINTON TOURNEY FINALS

(By "KIMBERLEY")

### Sugar Rationing In HK Ends Today

Sugar rationing has been suspended by Government. Distribution, beginning today, will be through normal commercial channels. It was officially stated yesterday. Government, however, will continue to be responsible for importing supplies for local consumption. The maximum retail price has been fixed by Government at 32 cents a pound for brown sugar and 38 cents a pound for white sugar. The maximum controlled price for lump sugar will be announced later. It was officially added that sugar supplies in Hong Kong are considered to be adequate to prevent the developing of a black market. Any difficulty experienced by the public in obtaining supplies of sugar at the fixed prices should be notified to the Price Controller.

### TENNIS PLAYER DELAYED

As the arrival of Dubuc, the French tennis player who will be giving an exhibition in Hong Kong together with Van Sau and Duong, has been delayed until Monday, April 4, the programme originally arranged by the Hong Kong Lawn Tennis Association has been amended as follows: SATURDAY AT CRC Van Sau (Paris) v Tsui Wai-pui or Tsui Yim-pui at 3.15 p.m. Duong (Paris) v Ip Koon-hung at 4.30 p.m. SUNDAY AT CRC Duong (Paris) v Tsui Wai-pui or Tsui Yim-pui at 3 p.m. Van Sau (Paris) v Ip Koon-hung at 4.30 p.m. Van Sau and Duong (Paris) v Tsui Wai-pui and Tsui Yim-pui or Ip Koon-hung and W.C. Chey at 6 p.m. The exhibition games arranged for Monday, April 4, at the Hong Kong Cricket Club, will now take place on Wednesday and Thursday, April 6 and 7. Dubuc and Van Sau rank sixth and eighth respectively in France, while Duong is Champion of Tonkin.

### OPPONENT FOR BOB PULLING

An opponent has been found for Lending Writer Bob Pulling, of HMS Tamar, in tomorrow's Golden Gloves Tournament at the China Fleet Club. Pulling will fight Able Seaman Chance in a four-round bout.

The Colony's reigning singles badminton champion, Robert Tay, blasted his way through at Club de Recreio last night, to enter into all three finals of this year's badminton championship, after defeating Bill Funk in the semi-finals by 18-15, 15-4.

With Patrick Wong earlier in the evening, Tay smashed through to defeat W. F. Foo and Charlie Au in three tight sets, 15-10, 11-15 and 15-6.

D. C. Lau's brilliant effort carried his partner Helen Kwong to beat Charlie Quinn and Yolanda Franco in the Junior mixed doubles semi-finals, to enter into the bracket facing Bill Soares and his wife, Melvy in the finals next week. The semi-final women's singles meet between Marie Ribeiro and Margaret Xavier was called off owing to the indisposition of Marie. The first game of the evening began with the Tay-Wong v Foo-Au classic which might well have been for the championship, judging by the standard of play. Robert Tay's deadly baseline smashes came into effect early in the game to give him the lead. Wong, however, began shakily, and lost many points for want of understanding with Tay. Wong was going for practically all shots played to Tay, with little success.

This saw the lead changing regularly with Foo in his finest form. Tay Aggressive Foo was up to nearly every smash that Tay sent down the court but gave way to a man with seemingly inexhaustible stamina and whose power behind every shuttle never relaxed. The game swung to both sides until Tay got the service at 4-3 in his favour. He went on to pile up a lead with two unreturnable smashes from mid-court and one subtle drop from the baseline. When the service changed, Foo went into some brilliant moves at net. His retrieves became as regular as Tay's smashes became consistent. Then Foo switched suddenly to a calmer game, dropping his shots and cross-cutting them to the confusion of Wong who often reached the shuttle much too late to do anything effective with it.

### U.S. BASEBALL

New York, March 31. Scores of exhibition games: Cincinnati (Nationals) 7, New York (Americans) 6. St. Louis (Nationals) 11, Boston (Americans) 12. Detroit (Americans) 0, Boston (Americans) 1. Pittsburgh (Nationals) 4, New York (Nationals) 11. Chicago (Americans) 4, Cleveland (Americans) 3. —Associated Press.

### Boxer Accused Of Propaganda

Vienna, March 30. The Austrian newspaper, "Neues Oesterreich," today accused Joe Weidlin, the Austrian heavyweight boxing champion, now fighting in the United States, of propaganda tricks. The paper claimed Weidlin had told American newspapers that he attributed his toughness to having been in a Nazi concentration camp. At the time in question, the boxer was serving in the German Army, the newspaper said. Further claiming that Weidlin had said his father died in a concentration camp, the newspaper declared that the boxer Weidlin was living in good health in Vienna.

It accused the boxer of appearing in the ring wearing the "Shield of David" on his shorts. When boxing in a Nazi "gau" (district) championship, which he won, he wore the Swastika on his shorts, it said.—Reuter.

### HOME SOCCER

London, March 30. Results of today's football matches: Third Division Southern Torquay 0, Port Vale 0. Third Division Northern Hull 2, Tranmere 0. Association Match Royal Navy 1, RAF 0. Irish Cup, Semi-final Glentworth 1, Portadown 1 (no extra time played). Rugby Union Clifton 8, Bristol 1. Rugby League Warrington 32, Belle Vue R.O. —Reuter.

### BASKETBALL

The following are the results of last night's Basketball League games at the SCCA Stadium, Caroline Hill: "A" DIVISION Union 33, Chinese YMCA 52. "B" DIVISION South China 27, Chung Sing 30. Put Tat 37, Lai Hang 18.

### Boxer Dies After Fight

San Jose, California, March 31. Youthful Billy Cornwell, lightweight champion of Iowa, died yesterday in hospital from brain concussion as the result of being knocked out in a main event fight on Tuesday night. He never regained consciousness.

The fight was with Tote Martinez. Cornwell had been in 38 professional fights, won all but five of them and planned to retire soon. He was the fourth known ring death this year.—Associated Press.

### South China Upset By Dockyard

The biggest upset in yesterday's curtailed Second Division soccer programme was the 4-1 defeat of South China by Dockyard at Caroline Hill. Although Dockyard have been showing marked improvement in their recent matches, it was hardly expected that they would beat the Caroline Hill team.

By reason of their defeat, South China have seriously jeopardised their chances in the Second Division.

The following are the results of yesterday's games:

South China 1, Dockyard 4. Chinese AA 4, Taihook 1. Club 0, Police 2. Army Kin, K. Motor Bus 1. PCA 0, Tramways 1. These two games were postponed.

### KHALSA TEAM

The following have been selected to represent the Khalsa Sports Club in a hockey fixture against the Dockyard Recreation Club on Sunday at 10.30 a.m. on the RNRC (1) Ground, King's Park: Mahan Singh; A. E. P. Guest, Yagob Khan; J. S. Dillon, M. H. Hassan, Mehinder Singh Grewal; G. W. P. Guest, "Khalo" Nigrell, Rahmin, S. Nino, Subedar Bhagat Singh, and R. Mickey.

## Segalen Repeats His Victory Over Jones

R. Segalen, singles champion of the Hong Kong Cricket Club, retained his title yesterday after defeating his old rival, B. T. M. Jones in four sets, winning the first in a close, drawn-out game of 10-8.

His victory over Jones was a repetition of last year's performance when Segalen won the first set—also by 10-8, but the second then went on to annex the following three and the title.

Jones had Segalen beaten in all departments excepting the most important—which cost Jones the match—and that was steadiness.

Segalen played an extremely steady four sets and nothing which Jones did could shake his control. Jones overshadowed the champion in court science but lacked the patience to stay in long rallies.

Segalen served first and took all the points except one to win the game. He followed this up with a second game on Jones' service, settling down to score on Jones' regular errors in his back hand volleys.

Jones picked up the next two games mainly by playing to a conspicuously weak back-hand. Segalen was time and again caught out of position with the ball far from reach.

Jones followed through with a third game to lead 3-2, and went ahead to 4-3, before falling back when Segalen cashed in on his recklessness to level at 4-4.

The next six games alternated between the two until Segalen came in on his own service to lead 8-7.

Jones then settled down to cautious tennis, lobbing away and drawing Segalen to a net with accurate drops.

Jones continued to plug insistently on Segalen's weak back-hand and took the championship to and from the net until the right moment for the kill which frequently caught Segalen off balance. The score leveled at 8-8.

Segalen suddenly started to attack. Jones tried to send the champion back to baseline with long lobs but most of them fell off the mark or were returned with killing overhead smashes.

Segalen took the first set 10-8. Jones took the second set. Jones in the second game, was beautifully placing and had the champion running all over the court. Jones again caught Segalen with a series of back-hand drives, which had the Frenchman beaten. Jones took the next three games. Once leading, Jones was inclined to relax into reckless play and Segalen won the following two games to bring the score to 4-3 against Jones.

Weak Backhand The next three games were Jones' best. He concentrated his strokes upon two weaknesses of Segalen—the Frenchman's back-hand, and his habit of remaining far up the court. Jones kept volleying at Segalen to receive a weak return, then drove it straight down the right corner far out of the Champion's way, winning three games and securing a 7-4 lead.

Segalen had the better of the next set. He seemed to hit with deadlier accuracy as the game progressed whereas Jones, the harder hitter, was showing signs of strain. Segalen took the third set at 6-1.

Segalen took a lead of 2-0 in the fourth set but Jones took the following two games with brilliant volleys.

Leading 40-15 in the fifth game, Jones pulled a muscle and limped from the court. Segalen was never again challenged. All he needed to do was return the ball to have Jones hit either into the net or off the sides. The champion won the set 6-2.

Scores: R. Segalen beat B. T. M. Jones, 10-8, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

## HONG KONG TEAM FOR SAIGON

The Chinese Soccer XI to visit Saigon during the Easter holidays under the auspices of the Federation Cochinchinoise de Football, was selected at a meeting of the Hong Kong Chinese Football Association last night.

The meeting also selected the team to represent China against England in the final game of the International Cup Competition which will be played at Soekurpoo on April 10.

It was announced at the meeting that it had been decided to accept the invitation of the Hong Kong Area Sports Board to field a Combined Chinese team against the Combined Services XI from Singapore on April 17.

The following players were selected to take part in the Saigon tour:

Yu Yiu-tak, Hau Yung-sang, Tse Kam-hung, Lau Chung-sang, Cheung Kam-hoi, Ho Yin-fun, Chu Wing-keung (South China "A"), Yu Kai-yan, Hung Ying-yik, (Chinese AA), Chung Yee-kit, Chau Man-chi, Tam Chung-fai, Tang Sam, Tam Woong-cheung, Li Chun-fat (RMB) and Leo Ping-chiu (Kit Chee).

Officials: Siu Chu-wan (Manager), Leslie Louey (Assistant Manager), Tsang King-hong (Coach) and Liu Wai (Bone-setter).

The team to represent China against England, which was chosen from the above mentioned 16 players, will comprise:

Yu Yiu-tak, Hau Yung-sang, Tse Kam-hung, Chau Man-chi, Hung Ying-yik, Lau Chung-sang, Ho Yin-fun, Li Chun-fat, Tang Yee-kit, Cheung Kam-hoi and Chu Wing-keung.

Selection of the Combined Chinese XI to meet Combined Services (Singapore), will be made at a later date.

## RETALIATION BY THE PI?

Tokyo, March 31. A message early today from an Australian Lancastrian been held up indefinitely and plane in Manila that it had would advise when it could continue its flight to Japan caused speculation here today.

The British Commonwealth Occupation Force has confirmed the report that the plane, which was due here this afternoon, last week-end, unconfirmed reports were received here on Manila plans to hold up Australian planes and freeze Philippine visas for Australians.

These reports said that the action would be for retaliation for the Australian Government's refusal to allow Filipino-born Sergeant Lorenzo Gamba to visit his Australian wife and two children in Australia. Sergeant Gamba, who is in the U.S. Army serving in Japan, has been refused permission because of the "White Australia" immigration policy.—Reuter.

## BETTING NOW MADE LEGAL

The Hague, March 30. The Dutch will from Friday be able to back horses legally for the first time in 38 years. The official State Gazette reports that the Government is to reintroduce the totalisator for an experimental one year period.

Clandestine betting with agents abroad had led to the loss of foreign exchange. Under the new bill, three per cent of the proceeds will go to the Treasury and "bookies" will continue to be banned.—Reuter.

## DOCKYARD TEAMS

The following will represent the Dockyard R.C. in an association hockey match against the Recreation Club at King's Park, tomorrow at 3.30 p.m.

Laird, Joyce, Rehmatt, All Khan, Kano, Rastall, Warrimley, Mutsaers, Bader, Alibi, Ditty, Abdul Ghani, Anout, Reserve: Dinitz, Agostini, Khalsa on Sunday at King's Park at 10 a.m. the DRC will be represented by: Laird, Joyce, All Khan, Collins, Kano, Rastall, Warrimley, Mutsaers, Alibi, Ditty, Abdul Ghani, Anout, Reserve: Dinitz.

The Bill was then put through the Committee stage with amendments recommended by the Select Committee and carried unanimously at the third reading.

## Budget Estimates Approved By Council

(Continued from Page 2)

"Government has taken due note of the statement made by Sir Markam Lo on behalf of his colleagues that they are fully prepared to accept the large scale of expenditure proposed for the Defence Force, including its naval and air units, on the clear understanding that the maintenance of the local forces represents the full extent of the Colony's contribution to Imperial defence, and that no further cash contribution will be expected in the future. The views of the officials will be conveyed to the Secretary of State.

Mr. Leo D'Almeida referred to the requirement that departmental orders for printing should be passed through the Controller of Stores. He seemed to think that a good deal of time would be saved if they were directed to the printing firm. This may be so, but there is method in our apparent madness. There must be some central authority to scrutinise the transmission of orders for printing through the Controller of Stores does save the taxpayer considerable sums of money.

"The practice of sending completed orders to the department via the Government Stores instead of direct is, however, a different matter, and it does appear to involve a considerable waste both of time and effort. It is of course necessary for the authority setting the printing to be satisfied that the printing has been correctly completed, but this could be done without the Controller of Stores passing through the Department, and I am examining the possibility of introducing a more satisfactory system.

Mr. D'Almeida also raised the question of compulsory registration of businesses. The Taxation Committee which reported in December, 1946, advocated the imposition of a licence fee of \$100 on all businesses, which fee would be deductible from the profits tax subsequently paid. The Government produced by such a measure would not have been large, as the only gain would have been in respect of businesses which did not make sufficient profit to pay more than \$100 in tax. It was however considered that the information obtained would be of considerable value to the Inland Revenue Department.

A Bill was tentatively drafted but the Commission of Inland Revenue felt that until the staff of his department was brought up to full strength he could not compete with this further measure. The proposal was dropped, and the information obtained would still be valuable to the Department of Inland Revenue.

"The S.T. and I. Department account is working out satisfactorily, but we do not propose to dispose of the profits until the department is wound up. In point of fact the existing balances are required to finance current stockpiles. The profits are however being drawn on to the extent necessary to make a refund to revenue of the departmental expenditure for the previous year. Thus the department costs the taxpayer nothing.

"It is the case that the department bought up large stocks of yarn in order to keep local mills in operation at a time when they were experiencing great difficulty in obtaining any supplies at all. It has not proved possible to dispose of this yarn as rapidly as was originally expected, owing to the inability of the local mills to obtain orders and to the dumping of yarn at a price below the local cost. It is believed that this is only a temporary phase, and the existing stocks of yarn will form a useful reserve if the supplies now being dumped suddenly cease. For this reason no particular effort has been made to dispose of the balance of the stock now on hand, and it is still hoped that the profit on this transaction will be fairly substantial.

"It will not be possible for Government to withdraw from the commercial field until trade with Japan is completely free and the departmental debts are cleared by international or commonwealth control.

"I once again emphasize the concern with which Government views the increasing cost of administration. It is naturally too early to give any indication of the progress of the investigations of the advice on methods and organization, but he has made a start on the Secretary, as is the nerve centre of the administrative machine. He will probably next deal with one of the large departments such as the Public Works Department.

"We are all agreed that the cost of administration must be reduced. Honourable Members have indicated a number of directions in which we should expend our activities. It has been suggested that we are not doing enough for Education or for the Public Relations Office, and that there is a case for the appointment of one or more game wardens. This would all mean increases in staff, and in consequence a still higher personal emoluments bill.

"That it is desirable that we should do more than we are doing in the realm of public health, education, and in many other directions, is a matter on which there can be only one opinion. But we have reached a stage when it is not enough to ask whether an appointment is desirable before we decide to make it. We have to ask ourselves whether we can afford it, both now and in future years. I trust that in the coming year members of Finance Committee will scrutinise applications for increased staff from this department.

"The senior unofficial member has indicated that the present proposals may not be acceptable to himself or his colleagues or to the people of Hong Kong at large," said Sir Alexander.

"If that is so then I hope that he and his colleagues will bring forward alternative proposals. As to the best method of doing that, any unofficial member can at any time bring forward a resolution in this Council with alternative proposals.

"But perhaps unofficial members may consider it more suitable to wait until the bills are published, and then bring forward, shortly afterwards, their alternative proposals. There may, of course, be more than one set of alternative proposals, but to facilitate consideration it would perhaps be better if unofficial members could agree among themselves first.

"I can assure members that it is not the intention of Government to steam-roller through this Council the existing proposals. Any alternative proposals that are brought forward by the unofficials will receive the fullest consideration and will be forwarded to the Secretary of State."

Sir Alexander expressed interest in the quickening interest in the public in the matter of constitutional reform.

"That contrasts very pleasantly with the general apathy that was displayed when the proposals were first published in July 1947," concluded Sir Alexander.

The Bill was then put through the Committee stage with amendments recommended by the Select Committee and carried unanimously at the third reading.

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